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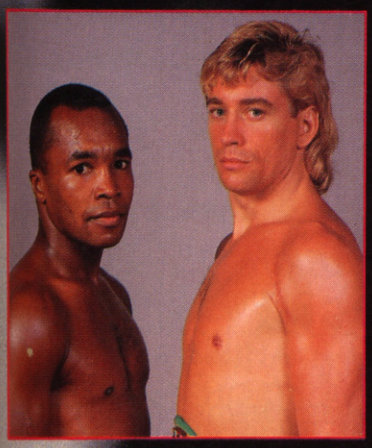

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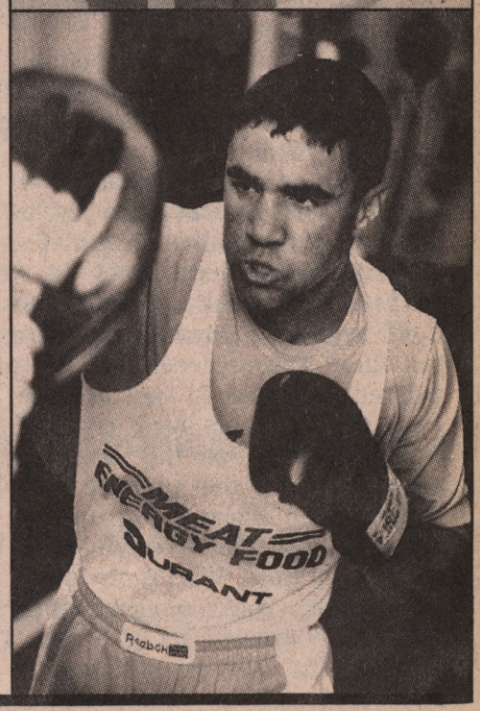
The RING

The bible of boxing



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THE RING
December, 1988 Vol LXVII, No. 10
"The Bible of Boxing"
Established 1922 by
Nat Fleischer

RINGSIDE

STOP THE PRESSES!

Just as we prepared to put this issue to bed, the shocking news that Mike Tyson's recent car accident may have been a suicide attempt hit the headlines.

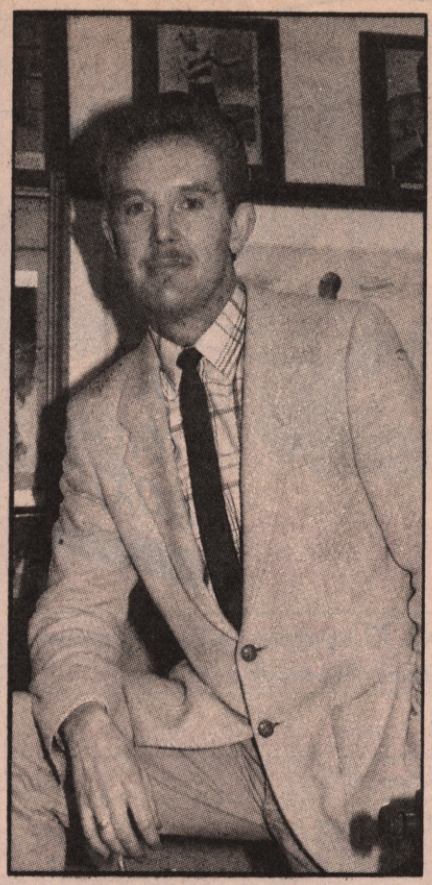
According to an article in the New York *Daily News* by Mike McAlary, Tyson argued over the phone with his wife actress Robin Givens and threatened to kill himself shortly before ramming her BMW into a tree.

While Tyson was still hospitalized at press time and had yet to make a statement, his mother-in-law, Ruth Roper, called the suicide rumors "a fantasy." Estranged manager Bill Cayton said the story was "incredible," but admitted he had "no way of knowing anymore."

The *Daily News* article blamed Tyson's violent behavior on a "chemical imbalance" dating back to his childhood. While this theory has not been verified, Roper did acknowledge Mike has been seeing a psychiatrist who specializes in athletes suffering from stress.

Tyson's car wreck came after the color section of this issue containing three Tyson pieces had been printed. Needless to say, these recent developments have changed my perception of the situation slightly. While the premise that Tyson's wild lifestyle mirrors his savage ring persona remains conspicuously valid, Mike is obviously a far more troubled young man than I originally thought.

While *The Ring* doesn't pretend to know the whole story, Tyson's October date with Frank Bruno is off. In fact, Tyson's future seems to hang in the balance.



I only hope Mike gets whatever help he needs — both physically and mentally — and then gets back into the ring. Whatever his faults, boxing certainly needs him.

Nigel Collins

P.S.
A belated note on the death of Kid Chocolate. While the passing of any boxing great is always a sad event, wasn't it ironic how Chocolate's demise came so soon after *The Ring* published Jonathan Rendall's exclusive interview with Chocolate in our September '88 issue? As far as we know, it was the "Havana Bon Bon's" last meeting with a member of the press.

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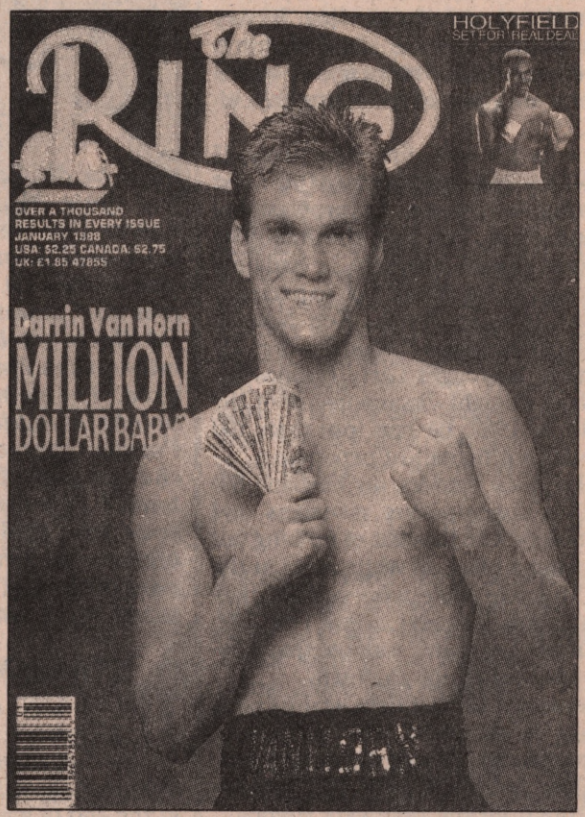

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COME OUT WRITING

WIFE DEFENDS TEX COBB

IN THE NAME OF FAIRNESS TO YOUR readers and to Randall "Tex" Cobb, you will print this letter in its entirety.

In your September '88 issue, Mr. Marder wrote a story ("Round One") about my husband with the heading "Wrong Conclusions." But I'm afraid that you and other boxing writers and so-called experts are guilty of the wrong conclusion.

Not as his wife, but objectively, (I think) my husband had one of the most remarkable careers in professional boxing. First, Tex had absolutely no amateur career. Secondly, he had only 50 rounds (not fights!) of experience by the time he fought Ken Norton, Michael Dokes and Earnie Shavers. By the time he fought Larry Holmes for the heavyweight championship of the world in 1982, he had less than 100 rounds (not fights!) of experience.

Like many fighters, my husband fell prey to unscrupulous managers and promoters who thought of nothing but throwing a piece of white meat in the ring to make some money. What they didn't know, however, is that Tex Cobb has more heart and courage than anyone and would not go down.

Ironically, his last fight against Leon Spinks on March 18, 1988, was one of his best fights. He had developed good defense and threw over 100 punches per round for the first eight rounds.

Yes, Tex is retired from boxing now. But instead of putting him down, why can't you remember him for his remarkable career? With no amateur career and improper training for most of his career, it's amazing he managed to accomplish as much as he did. Your readers have the right to know the facts about Tex Cobb and he deserves your respect.

SHARON COBB
Nashville, Tenn.

P.S. As to your question about why Tex fought Spinks in Tennessee: He fought in Nashville because he wanted to fight his last fight in his home town, not because New Jersey wouldn't allow such a fight, as you implied.

Phill's reply: By no means did I intend to "put down" Tex, who did, indeed, have a remarkable career in spite of limited ability. Whether his limited ability was because he had no amateur fights or poor management is not the question. What he did have was more heart and guts than practically any fighter I've ever seen. He also had more brains and was probably the best interview any boxing writer ever had, Muhammad Ali included. I'd like to see him keep that brain intact, thus I'm glad to see he's retired. The point is, the fight with Spinks shouldn't have happened. I'm sure the money he made didn't change your lifestyle, but if Tex hadn't come out of the hospital, your life, and the lives of many others, would have been greatly diminished. And boxing would have taken the blame.

STARLING SHAFTED

HOW CAN ANYONE SAY TOMAS Molinares is the WBA welterweight champion? I was always under the impression that when the bell rings at the end of a round both fighters are supposed to retire to their respective corners for a one-minute rest. Once again, the WBA proved me wrong.

Marlon Starling is the true (WBA) champion in my book and I think anyone who saw the fight would agree. It apalls me that the officials of the WBA can hold their positions in the "organization" when they suffer from such serious eye conditions. But what bothers me the most is the fact that I actually agreed with Larry Merchant on this one. Real scary!

STEVE KEELING
Jenks, OK

HAVING BEEN A BOXING FAN FOR the last eight years, I have just witnessed the worst case of robbery I have seen when watching the Marlon Starling – Tomas Molinares bout. I am a true Lloyd Honeyghan fan and was looking forward to the grudge match between Starling and Honeyghan. How the hell can the WBA let a fighter have a world title snatched from him after a blatant case of hitting after the bell? I don't particularly like Starling, but felt really sorry for him when his title was stolen like that. I am outraged and can't believe the WBA didn't correct the decision.

BARNEY KEENAN
Dorset, England

I HAVE JUST WITNESSED MARLON Starling being robbed of his title. A fight like this, with such a show of poor sportsmanship, makes me want to stop watching fights altogether. Nobody ever wanted Starling to be champion, so they robbed him. Molinares better enjoy being champ while he can because if Starling gets another shot at him, the belt will soon be back in the right hands.

BRIAN ROMERO
Rock Springs, Wyo.

LEONARD A WIMP?

SUGAR RAY LEONARD IS BORED again so he's coming out of retirement to fight Donny Lalonde. He's going to pitty-patter, hold, run, showboat and just about survive like he did against Marvin Hagler. Leonard doesn't want a rematch with Hagler because he's a wimp and is looking for an easy way out. I predict he'll be knocked out — if Lalonde manages to catch his scared ass.

CRAIG SEABLOOM
St. Paul, MN

A REMARKABLE CONTRAST

A RECENT LAS VEGAS FIGHT CARD presented a remarkable contrast in referees: Richard Steele — possibly the best in the world — and Joey Curtis — possibly the worst in the universe. As usual, Steele was the complete professional and, as usual, Curtis was a bumbling fool. It is no accident that the audience boos every time he is introduced.

Curtis is a clown in a business where clowns are not funny. It's bad enough that he yammers constantly, gets in the way, distracts the fighters, bothers the cornermen and ruins the fans' evening. But far worse, he is often nowhere to be found when a hurt or helpless fighter has taken 25 punches too many.

Australian reader G. Kemp thinks Jeff Fenech is overdue for a feature in THE RING. Fenech is pictured here getting an autograph from actor Sylvester Stallone.

He never seems to know what to do.

In short, he is not fit to referee and should be removed from the fight game before his incompetence gets someone killed.

JOHN R. BERRY
Chandler, AZ

FOREMAN FANS SPEAK OUT

I RECENTLY SAW THE GEORGE Foreman vs. Carlos Hernandez fight and I must say that Foreman's power is truly impressive. But it is overshadowed by his slowness. Although George was a little shaken up in the first round, it appeared to me that the great majority of Hernandez' punches had little effect on Big George. With the timekeeper unintentionally ringing the bell to end the third round prematurely and Foreman trying to get the referee to give Hernandez' mouthpiece back, the bout was even a little funny. I would love to see George beat any Top 10 contender and get a shot at Tyson. But I'm convinced that the only way Foreman can beat Tyson is by landing one of his tremendously powerful blows early in the fight.

ROBERT RODRIGUEZ
Fountain Valley, CA

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO want to see a Foreman – Tyson fight. There are those who say Foreman doesn't have a chance. Did any of Tyson's opponents have a chance? Most of them were scared when they stepped into the ring with him. Did you ever see Foreman afraid of a fighter? There are many of Foreman's fans from the 1970s still out here with hope for George. Wake up promoters.

JOHN SIRELLA
Stanford, Conn.

MORE PRAISE FOR DUSGATE ARTICLE

AS A PANAMANIAN WHO FREquently visits Miami, I was very interested in James Dusgate's article "Panama Revisited" (*The Ring*, August '88). Sad to say, I think the writer gives a fair impression of our country — with all its warts. The interview with Carlos Eleta was fascinating and contained new, fresh material on Roberto Duran. Congratulations!

ANTONIO FLORES
Panama City, Panama

Editors's Note: Readers who admired Mr. Dusgate's articles on Panamanian boxing should also enjoy his feature on Mauro Mina in this month's issue.

YOU ASKED FOR IT

HOW COME *THE RING* NEVER FEAtures a story or photos of Australia's Jeff Fenech? While I admit America produces most of the great fighters in the world, especially in the heavier divisions, there are plenty of top fighters elsewhere. Fenech is the Mike Tyson of the featherweight division and it's time you got him over there before he dies of old age.

G. KEMP
Sydney, Australia

Editor's Note: Talk about good timing, Mr. Kemp. Your letter arrived as we were preparing a major article on Fenech for this issue. Hope you enjoy it.

TWELVE-ROUND TITLE BOUTS UN-AMERICAN

I WOULD LIKE TO PROTEST THE advent of the 12-round limit for title bouts. There is a great difference between a 12-round bout and a 15-round bout. If 12 rounds had been the limit when Jim Corbett fought Bob Fitzsimmons, when Joe Louis fought Billy Conn and when Rocky Marciano fought Jersey Joe Walcott, the history of boxing would have been quite different. Also, 12 rounds is a European distance with no real history in this country. I'm sick of liters, kilometers (and soccer) and don't need 12-round title bouts, too. If we can't have 15-round bouts, why not go to the next traditional American distance of 10 rounds. After all, Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney fought 10 rounds and it was the championship distance in this country in the 1920s. Twelve rounds is really just another 10-round fight, and to pretend that it is something better is a fraud.

EDWARD CUNNIFFE
New York City

ROUND ONE

by Phill Marder

THE RING RECORD BOOK

The Ring has always been the best boxing magazine on the newsstands, and our efforts over the last 12 months have been concentrated on making it better than ever.

You have more color pages, larger type in the "The Ring Around the World" section, with key fighters highlighted by bold type, a ratings page that allows you to see easily where a fighter stands in the rankings of the IBF, WBA and WBC, more eyewitness accounts of fights around the globe from an ever-growing number of expert correspondents, and a stronger editorial policy — including the resumption of the presentation of championship belts — that harkens back to the day when the editor's head was used for something more than stuffing a hat.

Yes, *The Ring* has undergone some great changes over the last year, and we have more improvements on the way. But while we have focused on our primary job, which is the magazine, *The Ring Record Book & Boxing Encyclopedia* has not been forgotten.

Contrary to what you have read in some typically inaccurate sources, the record book is not a thing of the past. Instead, plans are underway to bring you a new, easier-to-use but more informative record book than ever before.

The person most qualified to undertake this project is **Ralph Citro**, one of boxing's premier cut men, but more importantly one of boxing's most respected and revered authorities. Several years ago, Ralph established boxing's first central computer for reporting boxing results, a service that has been used to good benefit by some of boxing's sharper commissions. The natural outgrowth was Ralph's own record book, "Computer Boxing Update," which quickly became boxing's primary source for up-to-date records, next to *The Ring*'s own record book, of course.

Much to our delight, Ralph has agreed to join forces with *The Ring* as the editor-in-chief of our record book. And while the book is still in the planning stage, we are sure that the addition of Ralph's considerable talents and sources with *The Ring* will result in a record book that will surpass all previous efforts.

But, hold those checks. We are taking our time with this endeavor to make sure that when it appears, it will be what you want and expect from *The Ring*. We're not going to take orders now and make you wait two years for your purchase. When it's ready, you'll be the first to know. Just keep your eyes on this column.

In the meantime, order Ralph's 1988 edition by sending $27.50 to Ralph Citro, Inc., 32 North Black Horse Pike, Blackwood, N.J. 08012. Prices vary as follows: Canada and Mexico ($29); Central America, Colombia and Venezuela ($30.25); South America and Europe ($34.50); and the Pacific Ocean Islands ($38.25).

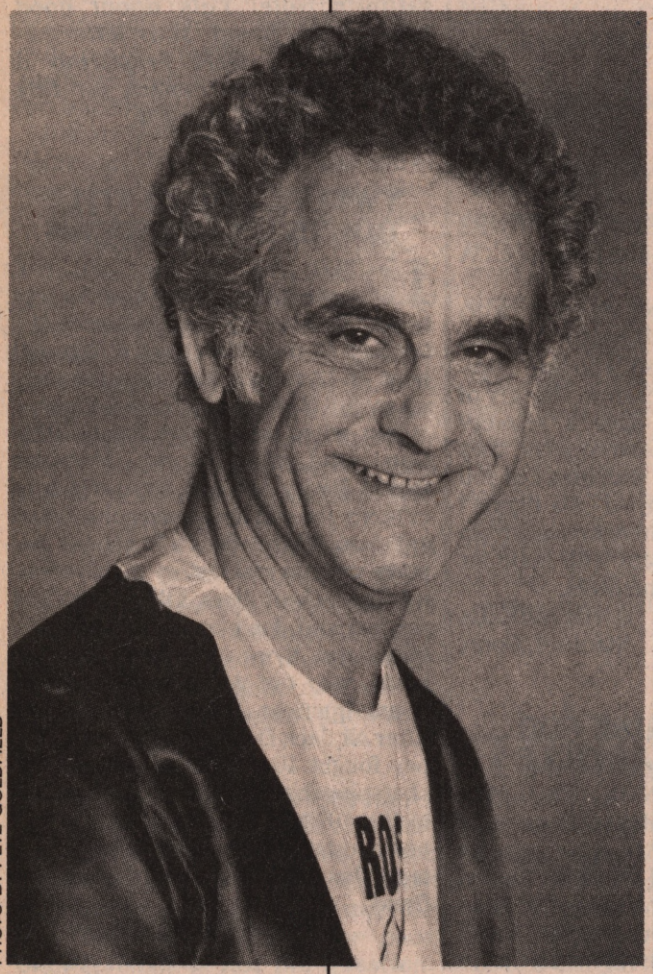


PHOTO BY PETE GOLDFIELD

Ralph Citro, one of boxing's top cut men and publisher of the "Computer Boxing Update" record book, will be joining forces with The Ring *as editor-in-chief of the next* Ring Record Book & Boxing Encyclopedia.

MORE GREAT NEWS

Those numerous souls who write and call about where old fight films can be obtained had better start saving their money. **Bill Cayton** recently informed *The Ring* that Big Fights, Inc. and HBO will merge to release the classics in Cayton's vast library on home video.

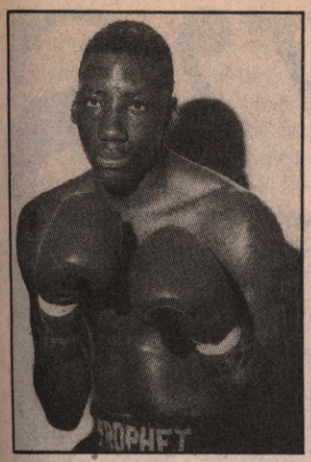
No details on what will be available when, but it shouldn't be long and you can be sure you'll read about it first right here.

51-17, OR FIGHT!

This month's soapbox deals with expansion.

A favorite argument to support the increase in the number of weight divisions and world champions goes

The life of undefeated Philly prospect Andre Prophet was tragically snuffed out in a hit-and-run accident.



like this — "It's only natural. All sports have expanded, why not boxing?"

True, but not true. Yes, there are more baseball teams, football teams, hockey teams, basketball teams, etc., than ever before. So why shouldn't there be more weight divisions and more world champions?

Simple. Let's look back approximately 30 years. Baseball had one World Series and one champion, basketball had one NBA playoff and one champion, hockey had one Stanley Cup playoff and one champion and football, when the NFL and AFL merged, produced one Super Bowl with one champion. Meanwhile, boxing was a bit more taxing for the sports fan, offering eight weight divisions and eight champions to keep track of.

Over the years, all major pro sports have added more teams. But the end result has remained the same. You still have just one World Series and one champion in baseball. You still have one set of NBA playoffs which produces one world champion. You still have one set of Stanley Cup playoffs which produces one Stanley Cup champion, and you still have one Super Bowl, which produces one Super Bowl champion.

In the meantime, boxing has gone from eight weight classes to 17 and from eight possible world champions to 51! No matter how you rationalize it, the fact is there are 6½ times more world champions today! It doesn't take a rocket scientist to conclude that the World Series soon would lose impact if there were six of them each year with six different winners or that the Super Bowl would soon become meaningless if there were six each year with six different winners. But it might take a rocket scientist to keep track of today's world champions in boxing. By the time you name the 51 so-called world champions, three of them have been beaten and your list has become outdated.

Expansion is one thing. Going from eight divisions and world champions to 17 divisions and 51 world champions is quite another. Only one word accurately applies when something grows this out of control, and that word is not expansion — it is *cancer.*

HOW SLY IS SLY?

Grant Elvis Phillips, a 22-year-old New York actor, won a California state amateur championship as a boxer, worked with the late **Salvador Sanchez** as a trainer and sparred with **Juan "Kid" Meza** as Meza prepared for his 1984 bout with **Jaime Garza**. You'll recognize him as the winning amateur boxer in a new *Coke* commercial.

Meanwhile, Phillips claims to have written a screenplay for "Rocky V," which deals with a young fighter, taken under the wing of **Rocky Balboa**, who eventually becomes involved with drugs.

Since the age of 10, Phillips has idolized **Sylvester Stallone**. But he says he has been unable to reach the actor. And now Phillips has heard Stallone is using his script as the basis for "Rocky V."

Yo, Sly. How about a response?

ROSIN DUST

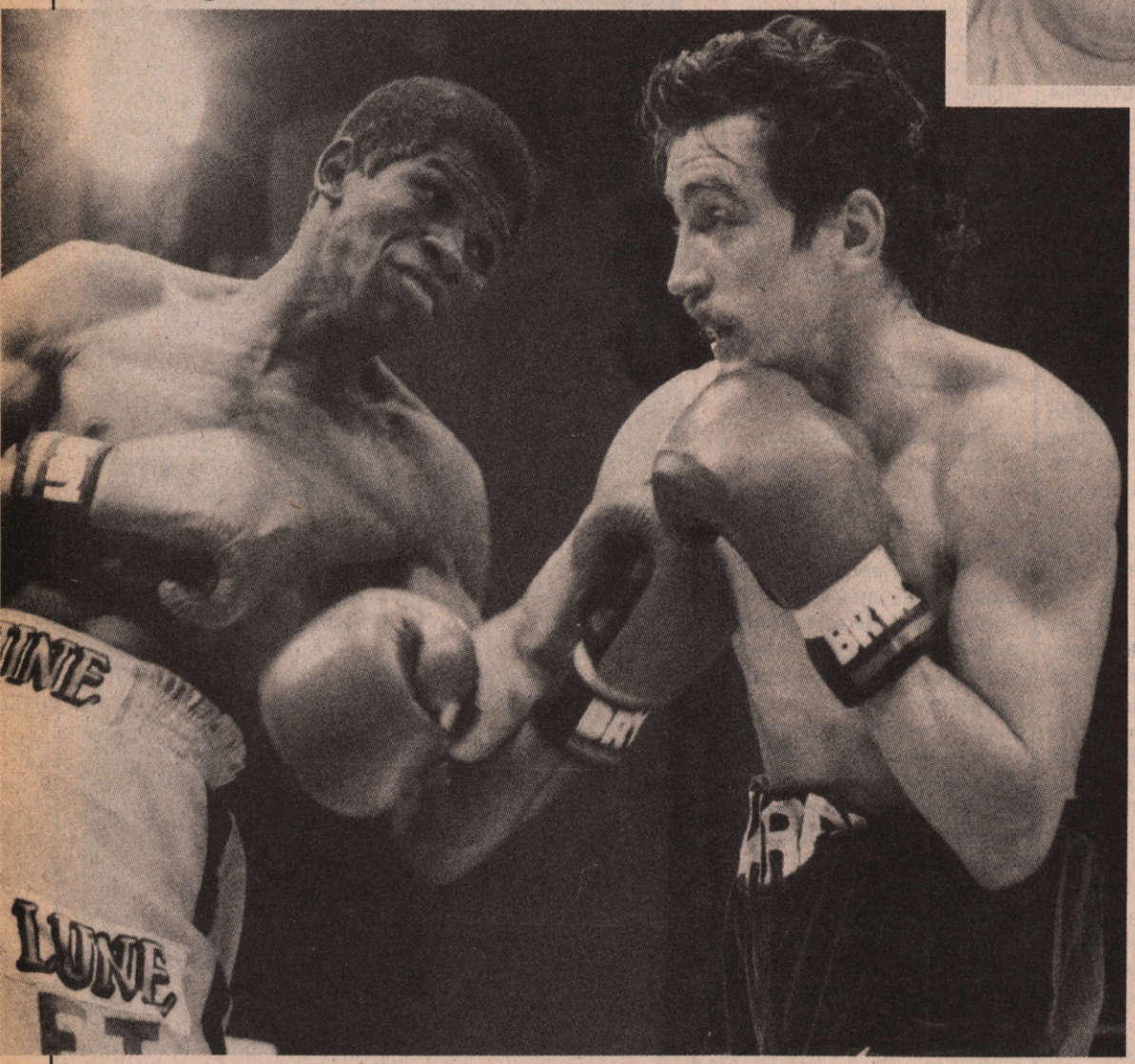
James "Quick" Tillis has retired as a boxer, but will remain active in the sport doing training and promotional work for **Beau Williford** ... **Muhammad Ali** is undergoing blood-cleansing treatments by physician Rajko Medenica, who believes the ex-champ's physical problems are not the result of Parkinson's Disease or blows to the head, but a blood disorder ... **Kenny Vice**, the lightweight whose last bout resulted in the death of South Africa's **Brian Baronet**, has decided to continue boxing, saying, "After the fight Mr. Baronet told me that Brian would have wanted me to continue to fight and I feel sure he would have." ... If you think boxing should be banned, how about motorcycles? The bike claimed yet another top Philadelphia prospect when 20-year-old undefeated heavyweight **Andre "Thee" Prophet** and a companion were mowed down by a hit-and-run driver ... Bad news for former WBC junior middleweight titleholder **Lupe Aquino**, who was charged with vehicular manslaughter and drunken driving after an auto accident that resulted in two deaths ... Remember **George Foreman's** knockout of Frank "Gator" Williams in Anchorage way back in May? According to *The Frontiersman*, a bi-weekly publication, the charity that was supposed to benefit from that promotion — Missing Children of America — ended up losing $8,000 and several involved with the card were not paid. Meanwhile, George reportedly left Alaska with a $30,000 purse. Efforts by *The Frontiersman* to locate promoter Joe Capetti have been unsuccessful. □

Possibly the biggest name in Maryland boxing today belongs to round-card girl Leslie "Looking" Glass. Leslie is rumored to be ready for an upcoming Playboy *spread.*

BARRY'S BACK!

by Jonathan Rendall

McGuigan Back In Title Picture Following Two Victories Under New Management



Barry McGuigan (right) en route to a fourth-round TKO over Tomas DaCruz for his second win on the comeback trail.

LUTON IS NOT WHAT YOU'D CALL A fast town. Traffic speeding past on the M1 motorway largely ignores Luton's three exits, except in the late evening when a stream of company-owned Fords, having made the 30-mile trip north out of London, can be seen gliding into the left lane at exit 1, not bound in the main for Luton, but for the commuter hinterland which lies beyond, towards the new town of Milton Keynes.

Despite his crushing defeat to Stevie Cruz and a long layoff, McGuigan feels he can still make it back to the top at age 27.

PHOTO BY ANDREW PALMER

Luton itself has a large immigrant base: the established and originally blue-collar Irish centered around the huge Vauxhall motor works; and the newer Asians grouped further towards the low-lying town center, with its late-night grocery stores and small manufacturing outfits.

Defiantly self-contained, locals will stress that Luton is not in fact a middling suburb of Greater London, but Hertfordshire's largest town. It was thought typical of Luton that its football team became the first, and only, club in the league to ban visiting supporters (an anti-hooligan measure). Not that outsiders minded, except a few politicians: after all, Luton Town FC had never won anything, and wasn't likely to. Indeed, the team's nickname, "The Hatters," had always seemed to them to be inappropriately exuberant.

But this year, everything changed: the football team reached two national finals and Barry McGuigan moved into town.

The Clones Cyclone (the temptation to re-name him the Luton Larruper has been resisted) installed himself in the basement gym at Vauxhall Motors before his comeback fight with Nicky Perez. There, with his new trainer, John Ashton, a man scarcely older than himself, the 27-year-old McGuigan began his quest for redemption from the harrowing defeat in Las Vegas two years ago when Stevie Cruz unexpectedly ripped away his world featherweight title.

McGuigan had promised to return fitter, sharper and better defensively than before. He would also return at the junior lightweight limit, after years of drying out to reach nine stone, though the heavy burden of managerial anxieties had been relieved after the Belfast bookmaker, Barney Eastwood, sold McGuigan's contract to London's newest big-time promoter and manager, Frank Warren.

On the comeback trail, former world featherweight champion Barry McGuigan prepares for a workout at his new headquarters in Luton, England. Barry hopes to get a crack at WBC super featherweight boss Azumah Nelson in the near future.

PHOTO BY ANDREW PALMER

Certainly McGuigan had appeared light-headedly exhilarated by the mission in prospect. Oddly, he has always been most relaxed when titleless: many would view his performances up to and including the 1985 defeat of Eusebio Pedroza (and particularly a masterful display of boxing to beat Juan LaPorte) as his best; it was later, as champion, that he struggled: appearing pedestrian against Bernard Taylor; scratching through against Danilo Cabrera; and finally blowing up against the unheralded Cruz.

Loyal Lutonites had traveled south to the capital for the comeback bout against Perez at Alexandria Pavilion. They returned happy. McGuigan, after an uneasy start during which he walked into a fierce uppercut, had plastered the Texan with combinations, finally grounding him into submission in the fourth.

McGuigan had been strangely crestfallen as he approached the ringside press and TV. Ever the perfectionist, he suspected he had looked below par; dry-mouthed he sought the scribes' opinions; and only with their rapturous acclaim, to the echoes of "Here we go" around the stadium, did the richly satisfying taste of victory flood back to him.

His reward was a bout against a ranked opponent. The reward for his adopted hometowners was that the bout would be staged at Kennilworth Road, Luton — home of the now-prestigious Hatters, no less, who even agreed to lift the ban on visiting supporters. Given that McGuigan's opponent, Tomas Da Cruz, came from Brazil, it was perhaps a shrewd risk.

Any who did make the transcontinental journey were sorely disappointed, if not as sore as Da Cruz. The Brazilian flattered in the first round, jabbing effectively from a side-on, European-style stance. From there on, he was made to pay for his deception; bent double by left hooks in the second, he was straightened up by right handers in the third. By the start of the fourth he was bobbing up and down uncontrollably as McGuigan let him have both.

A combination of his own absorbent chin and McGuigan's wildness would prolong his agony a little longer. The referee showed no inclination to stop the rout at this point. Searching dizzily for options, Da Cruz took to sliding along the ropes toward his own corner and some confused image of safety, being belted all the while by McGuigan.

At 1:43 of the round, the time at which the third man cast a restraining arm around the Irishman's willing chest, Da Cruz had completed his own limited objective, flopping gratefully into the arms of his exasperated handlers. McGuigan had completed his, too, with a second comeback victory — his 31st in all, against two defeats.

Manager Warren flew directly to the United States for talks with Don King, promoter of WBC champ Azumah Nelson, who realizes that McGuigan, because of his aggressive style and, sadly, the color of his skin, represents the hottest meal ticket around, short of a move up to lightweight to face Julio Cesar Chavez.

So McGuigan is poised to return to the world title stage, though this time

the tone of his approach will be different. In Ireland, during the glory days, a carnival air attended each of his bouts for weeks in advance. Eastwood, with a bookie's flair, made his charge an irresistably attractive proposition. Together, in and out of the ring, though always in the glare of well-orchestrated publicity, they collected. Some said it was appropriate, if unfortunate, that their bitter argument over the division of the spoils went public too.

McGuigan, a Catholic married to a Protestant, continues to wear the white dove of peace on his trunks, a symbolic gesture towards his divided homeland. It will, of course, take more than the contribution of a pugilist to unite that embattled nation, though undoubtedly each of his bouts at the King's Hall Belfast gave, for a few hours, his followers a breath of intoxifying escape, when partisanship amounted to no more than cheering on their man.

But now, as he prepares for his own battles, McGuigan has learned the value of his privacy. In the spacious, old-world gym at Vauxhall Motors, used at other times by the local amateur club, he went about his daily work. And there, as shiftworkers in the bar above shared beer and snooker, he contemplated his future.

He was noticeably more thickset: a trace more sinew in the neck; more definition in the arms and shoulders. He must have had to boil right down to the bone to make featherweight.

"I like eating," he said, after a vigorous series of stomach exercises. "I used to binge between fights. Not that I went over the top — I always kept myself fit. But if a boxer has to fight the weight, it's a losing battle."

McGuigan completed the task of strapping his hands and Ashton slipped on the gloves. "The right glove always goes on first, for superstition," the trainer said. McGuigan echoed, in murmuring tones, "Always the right glove," and moved off towards the heavy bag, which exhibited a noticeable dent where he had been sinking his favorite punch, a left hook to the liver.

He spent three minutes carefully applying more of the same to the bag and, satisfied, danced into the center of the gym, bobbing and weaving beneath imaginary lunges. "Ooh," Ashton said, privately, "he almost got caught by that one."

McGuigan, features pinched into that worried schoolboy frown, padded around during a minute's rest, taking tangible delight at being party, once more, to the secret ritual of the prizefighter's regimen.

"I enjoy boxing," he said, still padding, still looking down. "I enjoy the fitness, the general well-being of feeling fit and feeling strong." Then, looking up: "And I enjoy being Barry McGuigan — I'd be lying if I said I didn't."

"Yup," said Ashton, a man of welterweight build and legubrious manner, handing him the skipping rope.

"But I am not 'coming back,'" McGuigan continued, starting to skip. "I am merely continuing my career after an absence of two years. I want to put my legal problems behind me. I wanted to keep on fighting, but there was no way I wanted to fight for Barney Eastwood. And when my daughter got sick and my father got sick and finally died, boxing was the last thing on my mind."

"But I won't fight Mitchell," McGuigan went on, referring to the WBA champion. "Because he's a South African. I have a lot of colored friends, and I don't want them upset."

He continued to roll the rope handles in his fingers, snapping the rope a little faster as Ashton called, "Two minutes."

"Keep talking," McGuigan said. "I'm fine."

"I've seen him run a mile on one breath," Ashton confided with the look of someone who has tried it and failed.

"I have a way of disguising my breathing," McGuigan said. "Sometimes I used to play tricks on my sparring partners out running. We'd be going along and I'd start asking them niggling little questions, ones which required long answers. I'd keep asking, breathing steady as anything, and by the end they'd be staggering around just to keep up!"

The memory of the Cruz fight aroused little emotion in him. "Well, first of all I never wanted to go through with that fight," he said. "But the funny thing is, what I most remember about it was this fella, Panamanian fella in the corner, who kept biting my ear between rounds. I suppose he was trying to revive me, but all I could think was, 'I hope he isn't carrying any diseases.'"

What observers most remember about that fight was the sight and sound of McGuigan, an utterly spent force in the championship rounds, saying with wide and scary eyes to his corner, "Pray for me."

For the future, McGuigan recognized that "Nelson would be the big-money fight. He's called me names which are unprintable and, you know, I've never even met the man."

"Nelson would be easy," Ashton interjected, matter-of-factly.

"But I won't fight Mitchell," McGuigan went on, referring to the WBA champion. "Because he's a South African. I have a lot of colored friends, and I don't want them upset."

McGuigan obviously takes his responsibilities seriously, and now he has business concerns to look after, too: his own contract-hire company, Tusk, and an endorsement deal which will have his name adorning Bullworkers for years to come. He professes that "the biggest mistake of so many great fighters was they didn't have a business brain."

All this is, of course, a far cry from the image projected by McGuigan Mark I, who had left the talking to others, which had seemed logical, for after all they had left the fighting to him. McGuigan had littered the title trail with little more than the odd, effusive, "Thank you, Mr. Eastwood."

McGuigan Mark II finished his training for the day and said politely that he was "looking forward to the future." Then, perhaps remembering the epic victory over Pedroza and the national hysteria which accompanied it, he added with no great sadness, if a hint of wistfulness: "I do know it'll never be quite the same again."

That same thought, with a different accent, was being entertained by the caretaker of Vauxhall Motors Social Club and Bar as he watched the former champion roar away in his custom-model sports car. "Great bloke, Barry," he said. "Though he'll get nicked by the police soon. I've timed him from the motorway to the car park in under a minute. Must have been going over a hundred. Reckon he forgets he's over here now. The other week I heard his brother, Dermot, say to him: 'Barry, you're not in Ireland now, you know. You're in Luton.'" □

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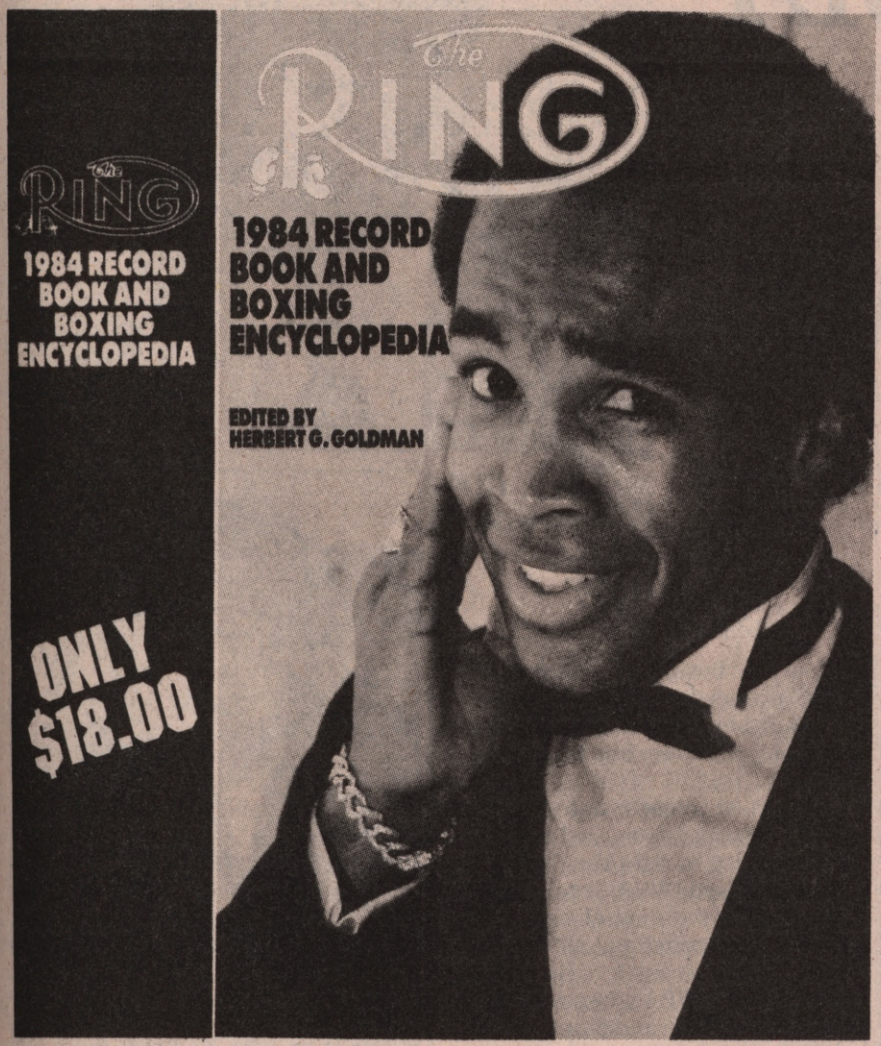

While reorganizing our back issues department, we unearthed a hidden treasure-trove of 1984 *Ring Record Book and Boxing Encyclopedias* in mint condition. These books originally sold for $29.95, but are now available to readers of *The Ring* for just $18.00, postage and handling included. A genuine collector's item featuring over a thousand pages of facts, figures and historic data at a cut-rate price. This offer is limited, so orders will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Act today!

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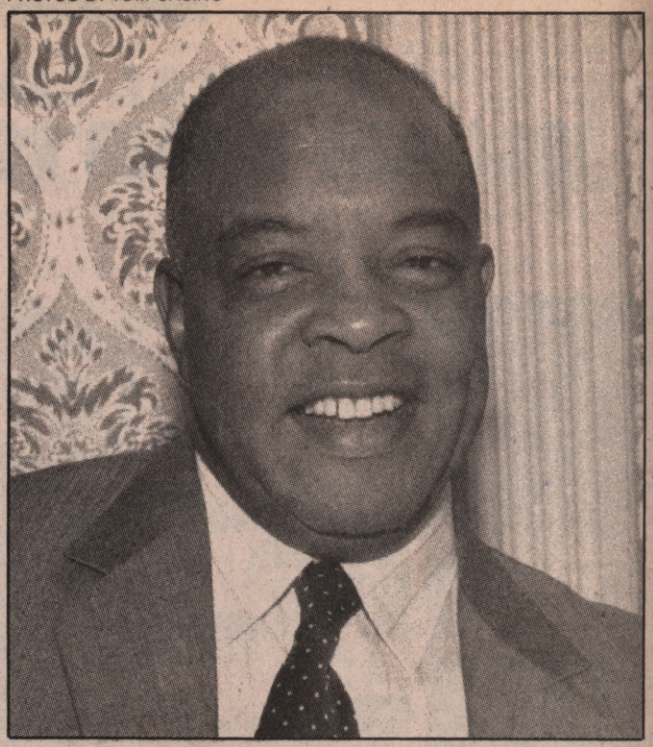
THE ALPHABET WAR . . .

WHO'S ZOOMING WHO?

by Lee Groves

PHOTOS BY TOM CASINO



***IBF** president Bob Lee.*

IN THE WEEKS PRECEDING THE HISTORIC Tyson-Spinks blowout, the advertisers at Pepsi ran a series of commercials designed to build up a "fight before the fight" between Diet Pepsi and Diet Coke that was supposed to settle the question of which tastes better once and for all.

As it turned out, nothing was accomplished by this latest series of taste tests because both companies released ads the day after Superfight '88 declaring undisputed victory over the other. Such are the ways of war.

In the past few years, the "cola wars" have seen enough backstabbing to satisfy even the most voracious "Friday the 13th" junkies. However, when one looks at the record, Pepsi and Coke's infighting pales in comparison to the recent power struggle between the WBA, WBC and IBF, collectively known as the "Alphabet Boys."

Bob Lee, president of the United States Boxing Association and its offspring, the International Boxing Federation, believes the foreign-based World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council are working together to squeeze his organization out of the sport. He feels the IBF, formed in 1983 under the acronym "USBA-I," has grown to the point that the two older groups have become nervous and are taking action.

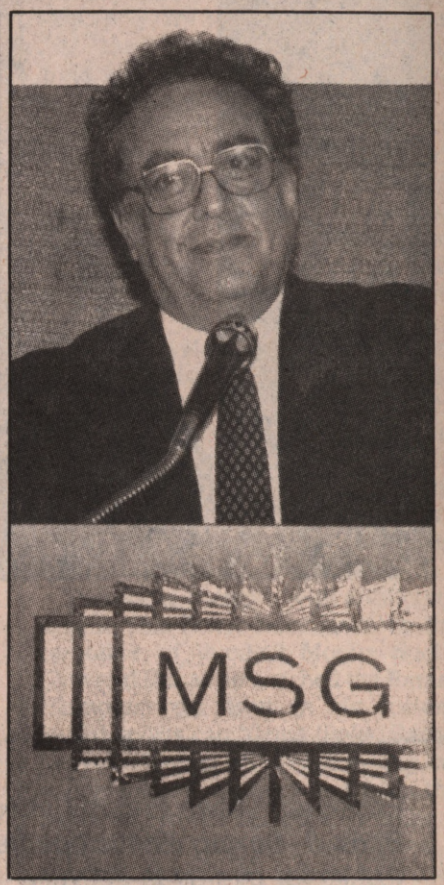
"I'm sure that they're trying to put me out of business," charged Lee. "(WBC president Jose) Sulaiman and (WBA kingpin Gilberto) Mendoza have never said it to me, but I know they mean it."

"That is absolutely untrue and it makes me laugh," countered Sulaiman. "I'm not trying to fight the IBF."

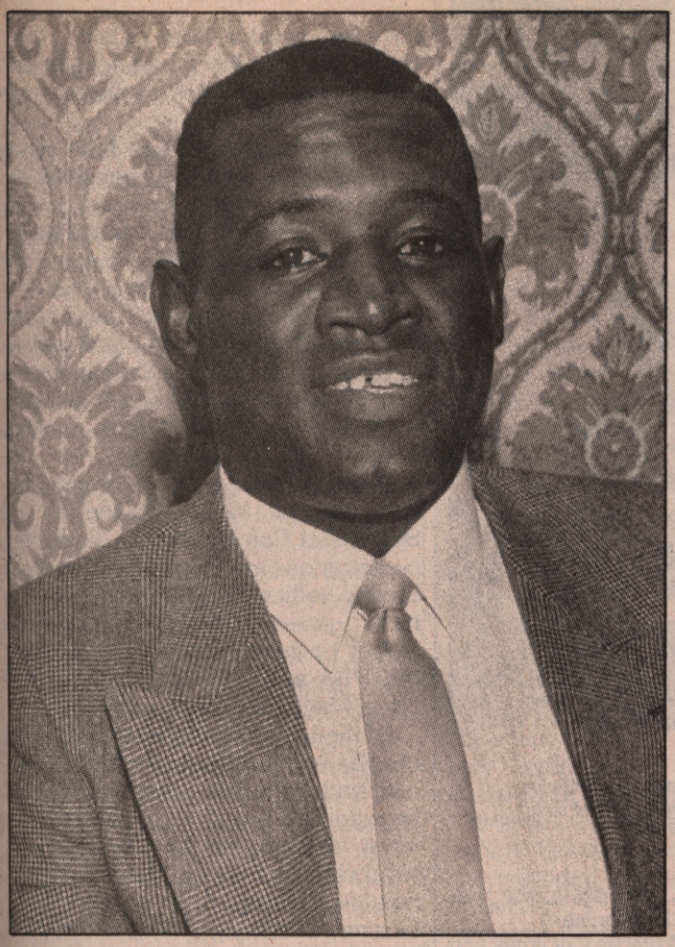
Mendoza and WBA legal counsel James Binns, the men closest to the goins-on, said nothing at all (see Why Bother Answering?). But Nick Kerasiotis, the WBA's treasurer since 1973, offered this candid opinion:

"The two other organizations have realized that they have a powerful force in the IBF, who everyone thought wouldn't last more than a year or two. The IBF could possibly control most or all of the United States. Maybe the two Latin organizations fear that, like Bob Lee said, the (U.S. commissions) will join into one large group and be a more powerful force."

This latest, and most intense, skirmish between the Alphabet Boys began last October. Since that time, merger rumors circulated, organizations have been snubbed at major title bouts, sev-



***WBC** president Jose Sulaiman.*



***New Jersey Boxing Commissioner** Larry Hazzard.*

eral back-room deals were consummated and numerous lawsuit threats were issued.

The story began with the already well-documented shennanigans preceding Tyson-Spinks. Under the rotating agreement signed July 31, 1987 (the day before Tyson unified the titles by beating Tony Tucker), the Alphabet Boys would take turns being the lead organization.

The agreement was observed without incident for the IBF-sanctioned Tyson-Biggs fight, which was scheduled for 15 rounds. It also stood firmly for Tyson's matches with Larry Holmes and Tony Tubbs conducted under WBC and WBA regulations, respectively. However, once Tyson-Spinks was signed, the fur began to fly.

In addition to his threats to strip Tyson if the fight was scheduled for 12 rounds, Lee reportedly planned to upgrade the Trevor Berbick-Carl Williams undercard bout from a 12-round elimination to a fight for the vacant IBF title. Allegedly, Lee also threatened to strip IBF junior middleweight champ Matthew Hilton if he engaged in a 10-round non-title fight on the Tyson-Spinks undercard and to drop Anthony Witherspoon in the IBF cruiserweight rankings if he fought on the card.

Lee explained Hilton was overdue for his mandatory defense against Robert Hines. Hilton asked for, and received, an exemption to fight a non-title bout against Paul Whittaker July 31 under Rule 21 of the IBF constitution, which allows a champion to become exempt from the regulations by sending in an application to be voted upon by the championship committee.

Hilton, Lee explained, tried to squeeze in another non-title fight June 27. The IBF president thought this was unfair to both Hines and Whittaker, so he asked Hilton not to fight. He didn't.

In Witherspoon's case, Lee said he simply outlined the Philadelphian's options. Since he was the No. 1 contender, he was to gain a shot at the IBF title vacated by Evander Holyfield. If he fought June 27 and received a serious cut, then it would be Patrick Lumumba versus the No. 3 contender fighting for the vacant title. Witherspoon won his bout without injury.

New Jersey commissioner Larry Hazzard decided to iron out the mess himself, opting for 12 rounds.

The IBF championship committee granted Tyson an exemption under Rule 21, a request that had been denied on two other occasions. But one IBF insider candidly admitted the decision was influenced more by money than Hazzard.

For the time being, the war was over.

This wasn't the first time Lee's organization had to give in due to outside pressure. After the arrangements for the Frank Tate-Tony Sibson IBF middleweight title bout were completed, the British Board of Boxing Control (BBBC), one of the WBC's eight continental organizations, chose to strongly enforce its recently adopted 12-round championship distance. When the IBF resisted, the BBBC threatened to revoke the licenses of British promoter Frank Warren, Sibson and all the British undercard fighters in addition to cutting the television feed back to the United States.

Sulaiman claimed he had no knowledge of the BBBC's actions but supported its motives, saying, "I don't know why the BBBC did it, but I'm absolutely sure that they did it for medical reasons because I spoke to them about it."

"They had us over a barrel with the Tate-Sibson fight, but never again," promised Lee, who punctuated his point by withdrawing sanction of a proposed match between IBF light heavyweight champ Charles Williams and British challenger Tom Collins set for Windsor, England.

Lee's most convincing piece of evidence concerning collusion on the WBA's part came in the form of a document chronicling the WBA's executive meeting March 1 in Madrid, Spain. In it, executive secretary Fernando Mandry Galindez made a motion to tack on the following paragraph to Article III of the WBA constitution:

"Any boxing commission or any other member that decides to belong to another boxing organization other than the one recognized by the WBA, in this case the World Boxing Council, will not have any right to vote, either his members or affiliates, in any capacity, can be elected, or designated to, and cannot take part in any position or participate as such on any committee or commission in the WBA."

"I think it's detrimental to boxing and it borders on a violation of anti-trust laws," accused Lee. "Here we

WHY BOTHER ANSWERING?

AS WITH ANY PROFESSION, JOURNALISM has its moments of great joy and its seemingly drawn-out periods of utter frustration. At age 23, seeing my articles in *The Ring* is my greatest achievement yet. But in pursuit of this goal, I also discovered just how far some people will go to avoid an interview.

WBA president Gilberto Mendoza and his legal counsel James Binns had a chance to give the boxing public their account of what happened during the prolonged political battle that began over one year ago. Instead, they chose to engage in a not-too-friendly game of telephone tag, with me being "it."

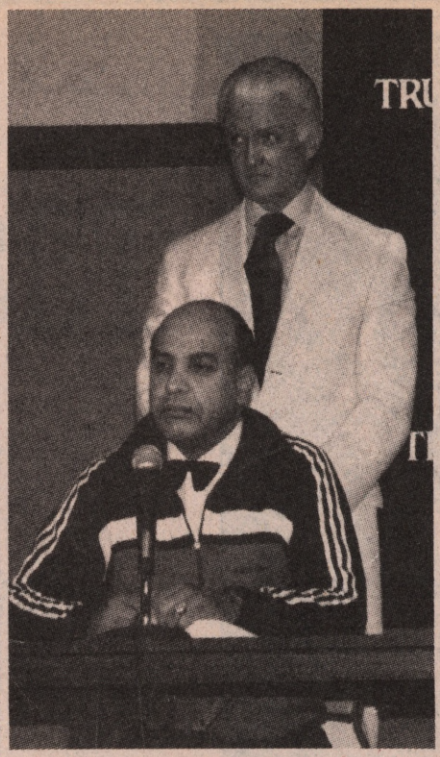
After five unsuccessful attempts at contacting Binns in his Philadelphia office, the WBA's legal counsel finally returned my calls only to say he does not conduct telephone interviews but would be willing to have a face-to-face conversation. But, Binns added, if I did make the 400-mile trek to the City of Brotherly Love, the meeting still might not take place at the agreed-upon day and time if a last-minute commitment came up. I could not afford to take that chance.

I called Phill Marder, *The Ring's* managing editor, to ask for possible solutions. He suggested I write Binns a letter detailing the questions needed to be asked. That way Binns would have a copy of his answers to prevent misquoting and I would have my information. Both sides would be happy, right? Wrong. Dead wrong.

Before I began composing the letter, I called Binns' office to see if he would approve of the idea. After I explained the suggestion to his secretary, she reported Binns was on another line and would get back to me. Six hours later, there was still no answer, which I took as a firm "no."

I called Phill again to report my lack of progress. He then suggested I call WBA treasurer Nick Kerasiotis, who has a reputation of being friendly and accessible to writers. I set up an interview with Kerasiotis for the following night, but when I called, his wife Rita told me he was unable to talk because of previous commitments. I contacted Kerasiotis at the Illinois State Commission office the next day, but he suggested I call Mendoza because he and Binns were the two most closely connected to the story. The rest of the WBA hierarchy, he said, was left pretty much in the dark.

I was given several numbers to try, but every time I was able to reach someone who spoke English (which was every third call), they gave me yet another number. When I told the secretary at the WBA's office (who answered the phone in English) who I was and what I was doing, she suddenly began talking in Spanish!



WBA legal counsel James Binns, standing behind referee Joe Cortez.

I reached the WBA offices four times and Mendoza's residence three times, but the slippery Mendoza was never to be found.

Is this the behavior of an organization designed to serve the boxing public? Or, is it the behavior of an organization that, as one insider claims, is flat broke and is being kept afloat by Jose Sulaiman and the WBC to preserve the Latin edge over the IBF?

My last option was to call Kerasiotis again to fill in some of the minor holes left in the story. In our 20-minute conversation, he answered every question with candor and honesty. But as helpful and congenial as Kerasiotis was, it could not substitute for the valuable inside story Mendoza or Binns could have provided.

The WBA had a golden opportunity to dispel many of Bob Lee's numerous accusations, but instead chose to leave many questions unanswered. For instance, why would the WBA, a staunch supporter of South Africa for many years, choose to suspend that country at the same time the WBC made several conciliatory gestures of its own? Why did the WBA refuse to abide by the rotating agreement signed July 31, 1987? Why didn't it resist the 15-round limit before Tyson-Biggs, which was scheduled for the longer route?

Thanks to Binns and Mendoza, and the people around him, the WBA's side of this story will remain a mystery. Could it be that they have something to hide? You be the judge. □

LEE GROVES

have two organizations outside of the United States who are coming in and telling everybody 'we're going to cause their demise.'"

Kerasiotis tried to ask both Binns and Mendoza about the meaning behind this proposal.

"I called Binns about this and he denied any knowledge of it. I asked the American and Canadian guys about it and they didn't know anything. I asked Gilberto Mendoza point-blank and he said that any commission cannot belong to any other organization or participate as an officer of that organization."

This proposal mainly affected the commissions based in the United States and Canada, where most state commissions are members of all three boxing bodies. In effect, if the amendment passed, those commissions would be forced to choose between the WBA and IBF. Kerasiotis made it clear which way he would go.

"If the intent of that law was carried out the way it was written, the American and Canadian delegations would have walked out. If it did pass, and we were denied membership, then it would strictly become a Latin organization and there would be no more World Boxing Association. We're not going to give up our IBF membership, so if the WBA kicks us out, we're out."

The next incident happened because of a split existing between the boxing commissions in Japan. One, the Japan Boxing Commission (JBC), does not recognize the IBF, while the IBF Japan Commission obviously does. Akio Honda, the promoter of Tyson-Tubbs, received approval for the match from the JBC and got Cayton and Jim Jacobs to sign a contract excluding any IBF involvement.

"That was something that ticked me off to no end," Lee recalled. "(The IBF) was the victim of the pettiness between the Japanese commissions because we were negotiated out of everything."

To remedy the situation, Lee participated in a four-way telephone conversation with Cayton, Jacobs and Don King. Lee said both Cayton and Jacobs apologized and Jacobs offered to go to Japan to straighten out the matter with Honda. However, Jacobs soon became too ill to travel and Cayton was unable to make Honda change his position.

"They had a ringside seat reserved for me, but I chose not to attend," said

Lee.

Whew! At this point, you might be asking, "How did all this start?" It all began last October when the WBA voted to suspend South Africa from its ratings and to institute the 12-round championship distance.

(NOTE: According to Kerasiotis, the decision to suspend South Africa was reversed last March because the ruling was penalizing the black South African fighters, which made up 99 percent of the licensed boxers in that country. However, South Africans still cannot serve on executive boards or have fights in South Africa).

At roughly the same time, the WBC decided to install Julio Cesar Chavez as its No. 1 lightweight contender and continued to rate him after he became the WBA's lightweight champion, a highly unusual move.

Additionally, WBA president Mendoza attended the WBC's world convention in London as Sulaiman's guest. According to Sulaiman, Mendoza appeared to offer his support of medical agreements reached at last year's WBA convention in Costa Rica and a medical symposium in Cocoyoc, Mexico in July, 1987. At both meetings, Adrian Whiteson of England presented his medical evidence to the WBA.

Rumors of a merger between the WBA and WBC began to circulate, but Sulaiman quickly shot them down.

"(Those rumors) are untrue," said Sulaiman. "The decision (to rate Chavez) had nothing to do with the WBA. When Hector Camacho was WBC lightweight champion, Chavez began to have problems with his weight. He contacted the WBC to challenge Camacho but Camacho decided to leave the weight after fighting Cornelius Boza-Edwards. The title was then declared vacant. The WBC decided at that time to have Chavez fight (Jose Luis) Ramirez for the vacant title, but Ramon Felix objected because he was the manager of both fighters. Felix then had Ramirez fight Terrence Alli, the highest available contender, for the vacant title."

After that, Sulaiman explained, Chavez approached the WBC several more times to ask for a lightweight title fight, but Felix instead had Ramirez fight Boza-Edwards and Pernell Whitaker.

Tired of playing the waiting game, Chavez decided to reach an agreement with the WBA to fight then-champ Edwin Rosario. But before he began negotiations for the fight, Chavez asked the WBC's permission in order to preserve his favorable status with the organization. At the WBC convention in London, the executive council voted to let Chavez "prove himself" a viable lightweight challenger for Ramirez by beating Rosario and then giving him seven days to relinquish his WBC 130-pound crown.

When asked why no other WBA champions appear as mandatory challengers, Sulaiman said, "Chavez was appointed the official challenger because he demanded a WBC title fight. If the other WBA champions would contact the WBC for this same purpose, we will include them if we find no complications."

Concerning the absence of IBF titleholders, Sulaiman cited the absence of an agreement the WBC has had with the WBA for the past 15 years. That agreement involves recognizing the other organization's champions independently of the regular rankings with an asterisk, which means that they can become voluntary challengers at any time provided they respect the other organization's rules in the future. Kerasiotis confirmed the existence of this agreement.

Why, then, have these asterisks never been seen in the WBA and WBC ratings shown each month in the *Ring?* "The boxing magazines refuse to print the ratings as we send them," answered Sulaiman.

Editor's Note: Contrary to what Sulaiman claims, the WBA ratings do not list WBC champions, asterisk or no asterisk.

You may be asking yourselves at this point, "What is the prize for the sanctioning groups in this battle?"

First, of course, is control of the sport. There are few, if any, non-Communist countries that have national organizations that control boxing such as we find in baseball, football and other sports. The Alphabet Boys possess the power to set forth the rules and appoint the officials within state regulations. This means judges, referees, promoters and managers allied to one group can get preferential treatment at that group's fights.

This has led to scandals.

Over the years, one promoter or another has been accused of having undue control over the sanctioning groups with power to influence the rankings, and certain referees and judges used for major bouts have drawn criticism for ineptitude.

Second are the sanctioning fees, the chief source of income for the Alphabet Boys, which range from one percent of the purses to 2½ percent. The IBF generally stays within the one-percent charge while the WBA opts for two percent and the WBC receives the maximum 2½ percent. At Tyson-Spinks, each organization gained $200,000 in sanctioning fees, so it is easy to see why the sanctioning fee is worth fighting for.

With all the personal and professional acrimony resulting from this lengthy and complicated battle, can the ultimate happy ending, one unified boxing body, happen? Once again, the decision is split.

"If a merger was possible, I would definitely favor it," said Sulaiman. "I would present my resignation and the others do the same thing, and if we have a world vote to decide on one organization and one president, I would do it without hesitation."

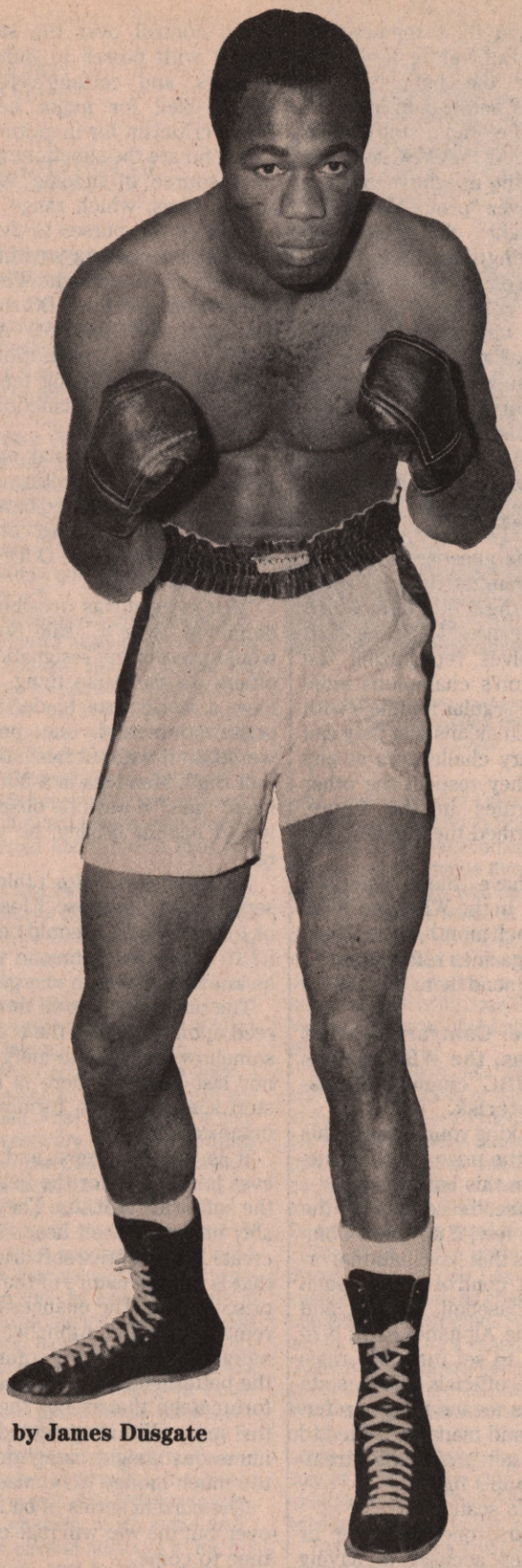
"I think Mendoza is a fair and intelligent man," Kerasiotis observed. "If it would benefit boxing, he would resign."

Lee disagreed. "I don't think it would serve a useful purpose if Jose, Gilberto or I resigned. What could be gained by it? It would put someone who is not as knowledgeable in charge."

The one thing that all three men agreed upon was that if the organizations somehow managed to merge, it would not last because there is nothing to stop someone from forming his own organization.

It is unlikely Pepsi and Coke will ever join forces for the betterment of the soft drink industry. They will probably never put their heads together to create the definitive soft drink because that is not the nature of the free enterprise system. The chances are equally remote that the Alphabet Boys will merge into one strong commission for the betterment of boxing because, unfortunately, that is not the nature of the sport. With fragmented titles and numerous weight categories, there is too much money to be made.

The current series of battles may be over, but the war will rage on for some time to come. □



MAURO MINA: THE CHAMPION WITHOUT A CROWN

by James Dusgate

I HAD BEEN PLANNING MY TRIP TO PERU for several months. It was to be a mixture of business and pleasure, part of the "pleasure" being to look up old acquaintance Mauro Mina, world famous 25 years ago and the best boxer ever to have come out of that part of the world.

As we stepped off the plane, the familiar dry, salty air hit us full in the face. Lima is a unique place: a port city of five million where it never rains, surrounded on three sides by desert. It's always dusty and there are almost no trees or greenery, and, consequently, few birds or visible animal life.

I had first visited Peru in 1978, before the start of the terrible wave of violence which grips the country today. Besides Lima I visited Iquitos in the Amazonian jungle, where after a week's stay I all but melted in the heat and humidity. I soon flew south to Pucalpa and hitchhiked on to Tingo María in the desert. Then little more than a village, it has since become a modern — and expensive — town built on cocaine money. I continued hitchhiking — on to Huanuco and back to Lima — not so much to save money as to meet people. I then installed myself in a comfortable apartment in Miraflores, the Knightsbridge of Lima, with its plush stores, a world away from the horrific poverty of the slums. (As it never rains, the houses don't even have roofs). At the sidewalk cafés I spent hours watching the well-built exotic-looking girls parading up and down. One told me she had twice broken her

Peru's Mauro Mina as he looked during his days as the leading contender for the light heavyweight title.

ankle, and I sympathized — it was clearly a problem of logistical support.

But to return to the present: after a few hours' kip I made my jetlagged way to Mauro Mina's gym in the smart San Isidro district, one of Lima's most elegant. I had met the Chincha bomber during that first visit and have spent many an hour since jawing with him about boxing. My wife and I even named our Peruvian-born daughter Sofía after Mauro's wife.

The former Latin American light heavyweight champion is still an idol in his native country and considered the "campeón sincorona," or "champion without a crown." This was the man who beat No. 1 contender Eddie Cotton twice and subsequent champion Bob Foster, but also the man the champions of the time shied away from. Then, at the peak of his powers, an eye injury caused (deliberately, many would say) by a non-ranking opponent put a premature end to his career and any hope of a world title. To his credit, Mauro is the same unpretentious, almost shy, country boy he was when he started out 30 years ago.

As my taxi cut through the city's heart, I noticed the place looking as drab — and as dangerous — as ever. Pairs of heavily armed policemen were to be seen everywhere. The night-time curfew had been suspended, but could be reimposed at any time. Peru is a country which has lived for years with the kind of upheavals similar to those which are now tearing Panama and Colombia apart. The general populace are always sad-faced and the rich live paralyzed by fear of being kidnapped.

It was a relief to find the friendly, but unassuming, Mauro working out with some young hopefuls in his gym, Los Paujiles. He owns the building which houses the gym, the rent from the 20 or so apartments giving him a financial stability he could only have dreamed of as a poor black orphan from the provinces.

On the wall near the entrance I read over a recent newspaper clipping. It described how Freddy Chumpitaz, one of Mauro's boys, had left the gym for a jog and, spotting something resembling a radio, he had bent down to pick it up. His curiosity was almost the end of him as the artifact blew up in his face, making a hole in his hand that will keep him out of boxing for six months. Such is life in South America's Belfast.

I invited Mauro out for lunch and our meal turned into an interview. He started out by telling me about his early life: "I come from Chincha, a province near the coast, about 200 kilometers south of Lima. It's a friendly, lively place with lots of 'chacres' (small family subsistence farms). My mother died when I was a baby and my father when I was eight, so my grandmother took care of me. I started school at nine and later worked at the slaughterhouse killing cows. I automatically got to eat meat, which helped make my body strong."

Chincha is a colorful place. The mostly black population must take the credit for that, giving it an atmosphere quite different from most of Peru. Famed for its music (the exuberant "valse"), fine horses and fighting cocks, I would add the luscious dark-skinned girls whose sensuous bodies seem to have mastered the art of perpetual motion.

"I always liked boxing," continued Mauro, "and at 16 came to Lima as an amateur. (His grandfather pined away and died shortly after). Starting in 1951, I had more than 300 amateur fights, winning most by KO. That was how I got to know Terán (Peru's Mr. Boxing who became Mauro's mentor). There was a tremendous amount of good boxing in Peru then. Many Panamanians came here regularly." (Including Joe de León, who later trained Mina. Now 80, de León still lives in Lima, but is seriously ill.)

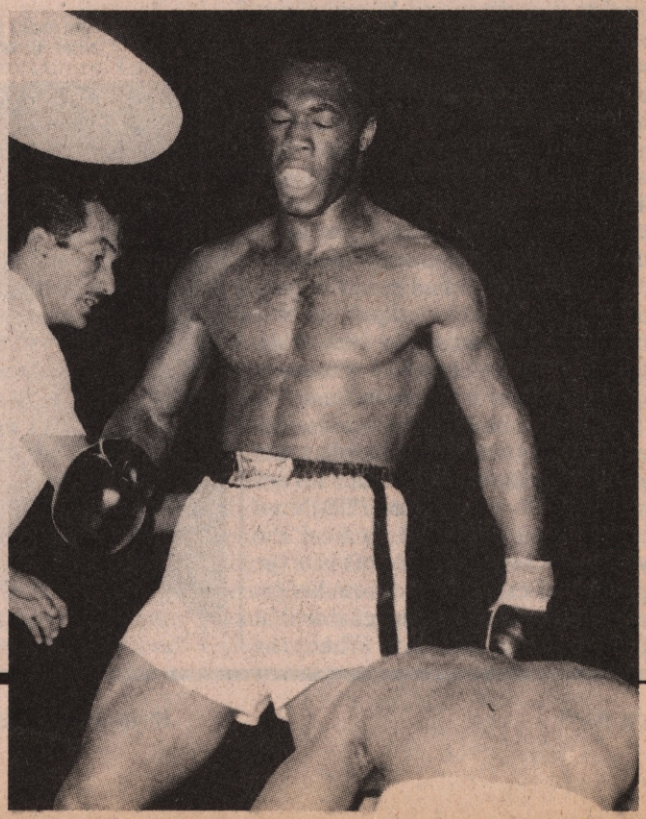
Terán wasn't alone in seeing the potential in Mina. Top local promoter Max Aguirre also got involved in grooming him for world-class fights and an American ITT executive stationed in Peru, Sosthenes Behn II, fixed him up with a job with the phone company. Once he became famous, Mauro was employed as a public relations representative of the company and continued to be close friends with Behn before the latter was transferred to Portugal.

Turning pro in 1955 the taciturn Chinchano let his fists do the talking for him. He swiftly rose through the ranks to earn a big reputation on merit alone.

In 1958 an inexperienced Mauro went to Montevideo, Uruguay and was beaten on points by local boy Dagomar Martínez for the South American light heavyweight title. Prior to this, Dagomar had had a tough duel with Archie Moore at Luna Park, Buenos Aires, South America's equivalent of Madison Square Garden.

In spite of this loss, Mauro was fast becoming news in the U.S. and top fight agent Dewey Fragetta began sending a string of Americans down to Lima to tangle with the Peruvian. Some were ordinary, others very good, but Mina stopped the lot.

We returned to the gym where Mauro showed me his scrapbooks with the cuttings of all his great fights, and also the moment when his career was



Mina drops American Floyd McCoy en route to an eight-round kayo in Lima, Peru, May 19, 1964.

brought to a tragically premature conclusion. He also possesses films of some of his greatest triumphs which I have watched with him on previous visits, such as the two sensational encounters with Eddie Cotton.

I made a comment to Mauro about the Carlos Monzón scandal which, around the time of my visit, was still hot news. (Back in Panama I had attended the first national boxing convention at which over an hour was wasted lamenting the fate of the former champion).

My mind had connected the story with a current Peruvian scandal involving one Dr. Poggi. I had read the gory details over breakfast (the Lima tabloids are as gross as any in the world). Some time before Lima had witnessed a spate of brutal murders in the mold of London's Jack the Ripper. Eventually the killer was apprehended and Peru's equivalent of Scotland Yard (known by its initials the PIP) hired the renowned Dr. Poggi to treat the psychopath. After a couple of visits the expert physician emerged from his patient's cell declaring to the guards that his work was finished. When the guards entered the cell they found the murderer dead — strangled with the doctor's belt. Now in custody, the doctor insists that his victim was beyond redemption and that he (Poggi) has rid society of a great evil. Reading over the story I wondered whether Poggi could be the man to take on Monzón.

Mina working with young prospects at his gym in Lima.

Mina as he looks today, 23 years after his last bout.

But back to Mauro Mina: In 1960 — on March 15, to be precise — Mauro took on Latin American light heavyweight champion Sugar Boy Nando — and beat him. On June 16 he fought the "Bull from San Juan," Argentine heavyweight champ Gregorio Peralta, whom he stopped in eight. It is worth remembering that Peralta later conquered future world light heavyweight champion Willie Pastrano, whom Mauro *should* have fought for the title had his tragic injury not prevented him.

The next two years saw Mauro's greatest victories and paydays, though these were quite modest by modern standards. Probably the best remembered by Latin fight fans were the two run-ins with Cotton. Seattle's "Black Panther" was No. 1 contender at the time, but Mina won both fights convincingly on points. Thirty thousand at-

tended the first and 40,000 the second at Lima's National Stadium, such was the passion for Peru's supreme sporting idol. The local hero received only about $1,000, while Cotton, as the "foreigner," was paid $5,000. The first duel was over 10 rounds, the second over 12.

"Eddie was a beautiful technician, a precise, if not hard puncher," Mauro told me. "He placed punches meticulously." One expert has said that Cotton (who might himself have been champ) toiled in the shadows of two great champions: Moore and Harold Johnson. Mina went one better and had to toil (unsuccessfully) under three — Moore and Johnson plus Pastrano — with the fatal disadvantage of being a Latin from outside the U.S.

Apart from Cotton, the Peruvian's best performances were against the extraordinary Foster, who Mina put down for a disputed eight-count and beat on points, Leslie Smith (who had defeated Cassius Clay as an amateur), the awesome Von Clay (KO'd in six), Jesse Bowdry and Henry Hank.

Hank, the top-rated middle from Detroit, had never lost to a light heavyweight until he met Mauro. The fight was one of the highlights of Mauro's career and he had the promise of a shot at the world title if he could get past Hank. So he had every incentive as he stepped into the ring at Madison Square Garden, November 4, 1962.

"Against Hank I earned $8,000, my highest purse," remembered Mauro.

That night he took New York by storm and hardly had he left the ring before Terán and Aguirre were negotiating a possible confrontation with Johnson. But it was hard — if not impossible — for Latin American boxers to get a world title chance in those days. The sport was totally controlled by Americans who weren't interested in seeing non-Americans become world champions. To keep in shape, Mina next took on Cuban Lino Rondón, the man who was to almost rob him of an eye and — worse still for the Chincha Bomber — of a shot at the world crown.

There are people who still insist they saw Rondón poke his thumb into Mauro's eye before he was eventually KO'd. The damage was hushed up and Mina underwent surgery for a detached retina of the left eye in February 1963. Four months later he traveled to the U.S. where he passed a medical inspection but also attended the fight in Las Vegas where Johnson lost his crown to Pastrano. The new champ showed no enthusiasm for a defense against Mina. In an outing to test himself in February, 1964, Mauro drew with Allan Thomas in Lima, but his title chances were ebbing away.

On February 9, 1965, Mauro tangled with Bobby Stinninato, a black American with an Italian name. Stinninato hoped to repeat his great performance against South Africa's Mike Holt. In a tough bout Mauro won a unanimous points verdict. His last fight was against Italian Pietro del Papa that same year. Early in 1966 Mauro finally accepted the inevitable and retired. He was universally acclaimed by his countrymen as the "world champion who never wore the crown."

Many Peruvian fight fans believe the champions of the day deliberately avoided Mina, and when at last it did seem that Johnson would give him a chance (he was almost obliged to by Mauro's record), fate cruelly intervened with the eye injury. It is my own humble opinion that Mina could have beaten Moore (nearing 40), Johnson or Pastrano. Worth mentioning are *The Ring*'s recent ratings which made Moore easily the best-ever light heavy. Johnson was the sixth, with Pastrano in the No. 23 spot — and of course the great Bob Foster, himself a Mina victim, is rated No. 4!

But Mauro himself will never be heard to utter a word of criticism against anyone. He is too much of a gentleman and a supreme ambassador for the sport in his own country. Young hopefuls flock to his gym (he is a registered trainer with the Peruvian Boxing Federation), where he works full-time. They all shake his hand before leaving at the end of the day.

"I not only teach them boxing, but also how to behave — that's very important," Mauro told me. In all the years I've known him I've never heard a bad word said against him, nor has he ever uttered a word of bitterness about the quirk of fate (or twist of a thumb) which put an end to his career and his aspirations of a world crown.

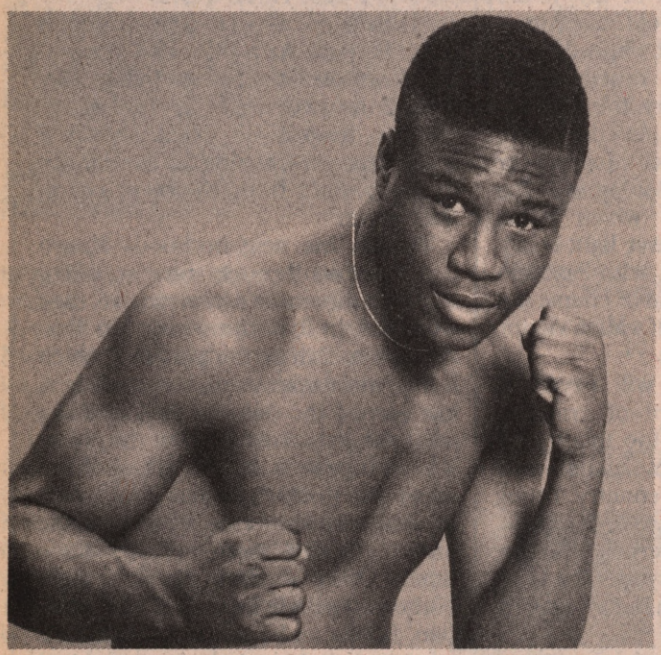
The next day Mina offered to give me a tour of the Lima slums — as bad as any in the world. These are to be found on a series of hills which circle the city. The hills are in fact more like humps rising steeply from the eastern perimeter of the capital. The "houses" are small rectangular boxes built of brick with no roofs. It is, in my experience, quite a unique concept in design. These neighborhoods are the breeding grounds for the young hoodlums who now plague Lima — and also for fighters with class. Many children and teens are drug addicts, their only way to "escape" the misery around them being to chew or smoke coca leaves. A local South American amateur champion, Mario Broncano, is currently in jail (not for the first time) where he continues to train. There was even talk of allowing him to fight opponents inside the jail!

Mauro drove me around the slums in his new car apparently without fear of being assaulted (even taxi drivers carry weapons for self-protection). But there again, people recognize him and still consider him one of them — a poor boy made good. In fact, by the end of the tour I wasn't sure if it had been for my benefit or his — to keep in touch with his roots. As we crawled along in the downtown traffic, an Indian boy offered us two bright green lizards. Others dressed in jeans hovered around the cars, hoping for the chance to grab a watch from the arm of a careless driver.

Though the neighborhoods Mauro and I passed through were appalling to the European or American eye, they were not, in fact, the worst. Los Barracones in Callao, the port city which is little more than an extension of Lima, has earned the dubious honor of the most dangerous district. For the police it is a no-go area and the scene of frequent shootouts between rival gangs of drug peddlers (the basic cocaine paste is traded there in large quantities). Other similarly "lively" neighborhoods include La Victoria, El Agustino, Rimac and Barrios Altos. Mauro has plucked potential young fighters from these areas and given them a chance at his gym, which must have earned the respect of most of the residents. In this way Mina has put back into boxing — and society — much more than he ever got out of it. The cards were always stacked against him, from his orphaned childhood to his eye injury and the raw deal he got from those who controlled the fight game. But if he has shown the world one thing, it is that his qualities as a man match his great talents as a boxer — and I don't know many other fighters you could say that about. □

RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH



Meldrick Taylor earned both the IBF junior welterweight belt and THE RING's Fighter of the Month award with his outstanding victory over Buddy McGirt in Atlantic City.

There was little debate over this month's top performer as **Meldrick Taylor** dazzled with his performance against James "Buddy" McGirt.

The undefeated Taylor, a former Olympic gold medalist, dominated McGirt from the outset, finally battering him into a 12-round TKO that gave Taylor the IBF junior welterweight title.

This month's runner-up is **Jorge Paez** of Mexico. Paez rallied to knock down Calvin Grove three times in the 15th round to win a close decision and capture Grove's IBF featherweight title.

Also worthy of mention are Australia's **Jeff Fenech,** who retained his WBC featherweight title with a five-round TKO of Tyrone Downes, and Mexico's **Raul Perez**, who won a unanimous decision over Wilfredo Vasquez in a battle of top-rated bantamweights. □

LORA – DAVILA
WBC Bantamweight Title

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA — WBC bantamweight titleholder Miguel "Happy" Lora had more trouble after his title defense against Albert Davila than he did during the 12-round bout.

Lora, 26, of Colombia, took control of the contest at the Forum in the third round and lost just one round after that en route to a unanimous decision in his seventh title defense, judge Arsenio Garcia scoring 118-113, while Ray Solis and Miguel Donate each had it 117-111.

There was no questioning the scoring, but the California State Athletic Commission did want to know what Lora had in his water bottle. Marty Denkin, assistant executive officer of the commission, tasted the water after the fight and noticed a sweet taste. A post-fight test revealed traces of amphetamines and methamphetamines in Lora's urine. WBC president Jose Sulaiman ordered a second test, which revealed no traces of either, but experts say the traces of the drugs could have degenerated between the first and second tests.

Lora said he had ingested a prescribed cold medicine 25 days before the fight. Nothing conclusive was determined, and the result stands.

The 33-year-old Davila, from Pomona, won the first two rounds when Lora thought he could outbox the 5-2 challenger from the outside. In the third round, Lora found he could outslug Davila inside and did so the rest of the way, though the game Davila never gave in.

Davila suffered cuts around both eyes and both fighters were covered with the challenger's blood by the final round. The cuts, as severe as they were, never threatened to halt the bout — but a fan did.

In the ninth round a white towel flew into the ring and referee John Thomas, thinking Davila's cornermen had seen enough, stopped the fight with 25 seconds left in the frame. Actually, it was a fan who tossed in the towel, confusing everyone but Denkin, who apprehended the culprit and held him in a headlock until security arrived.

Lora, who earned $75,000, improved to 30-0 with 14 KOs, while Davila, who made $25,000, fell to 55-10-1 with 25 KOs.

In the co-feature, WBA lightweight titleholder **Julio Cesar Chavez** of Culiacan, Mexico, stopped an overmatched Yogi Buchanan of Berkeley, Missouri, in the third of a non-title 10.

Chavez, tuning up for his world lightweight championship fight with WBC titleholder **Jose Luis Ramirez**, also of Mexico, weighed 140 in pushing his record to 61-0.

Chavez started slowly, but landed two good left hooks to the ribs at the end of the first round. Buchanan, 19-6-1 with five KOs, was landing left hooks to the head, but his ribs were taking a pounding. In the third, Chavez landed nine straight shots to the head and body, then a hard left hook to the body that drove Buchanan into the ropes where he held up his hands to signal defeat. Referee Chuck Hassett then stopped the bout.

Chavez said he was ready for Ramirez, stating simply, "I am going directly to Ramirez. No more fights."

Former WBA bantamweight titleholder **Wilfredo Vasquez** of Puerto Rico dropped a unanimous decision to Tijuana's **Raul Perez**. Perez, 41-1-1 with 28 KOs, had Vasquez, 26-5-3, 22 KOs, lunging and absorbing crisp punches up the middle. Hassett scored 98-91, Dick Young had it 96-93 and Fritz Werner saw it 98-93.

John Roby, 135, Long Beach, won a four-round, majority decision over Alonzo Hidalgo, 136½, Glendale. The debuting Roby fought in flurries while Hidalgo, 2-3, one KO, fought off the ropes for most of the contest.

Ernest Williamson, 158, Los Angeles, was a four-round, unanimous decision winner over Lisiate Lavulo, 150, Long Beach. Williamson, 2-0, had Lavulo, 0-2, in trouble often and floored him twice in the third.

Attendance: 7,329.
(8-1-88)

JIM McCAY

FENECH – DOWNES
WBC Featherweight Title

MELBOURNE — AUSTRALIA'S Jeff Fenech, cut over the eye in Round One, came on to stop Trinidad's Tyrone Downes in the fifth round at the National Tennis Centre to retain his WBC featherweight title.

Referee Steve Crosson rescued Downes at 1:07 after he had gone down twice in the fifth after two trips to the canvas the previous round.

It was in the first minute of Round One that Fenech received a rather severe cut on his left eyebrow, the result of a head clash. It worried him, and he began to fight desperately without plan. The fast-moving Downes won most of the round, but it was the only round he did win. At the end of the round, trainer Johnny Lewis had a word with Fenech and Jeff was back fighting in his normal style in Round Two, aggressive, of course, but with direction of punches and plan of campaign. The doctor examined Fenech's injury at the ends of rounds one and two and the cut bled at various times throughout, but the wound did not open bigger.

Downes was warned several times for clinching and Fenech was warned for roughness.

Fenech stung Downes in Round Three, but Downes fought back between clinches and made it an exciting round. A left hook shook Downes in Round Four, but he came back with a very good right to the jaw. Fenech attacked, and Downes nearly went down, bouncing off the ropes. Soon after, he was decked. He got up at eight, but ran into more trouble and went down again. Downes was on his feet, shaking his head in an effort to clear the cobwebs, as Crosson waved the two to continue. But before Fenech could reach Downes the bell sounded.

Though sweet music to the ears of Downes, the bell just delayed things. At the start of Round Five, Fenech, 126, flew across the ring and slammed a solid right to the body. It nearly tore Downes, 123¼, in two, and he went down. Gamely he rose, and when Fenech reached him Downes hit back hard and fast. But Fenech cornered and finished him.

Australian middleweight champion Mark Janssen, 160, had a field day at the expense of American journeyman Ralph Smiley, 162, punching too fast and too accurately to win all eight rounds on all cards. Janssen is unbeaten and has a good future.

Former Australian heavyweight and cruiserweight champion Dave Russell, 194½, halted Geoff Peate, 190¾, at the end of Round Four when Peate vomited in his corner. Russell was ahead in the willing contest.

Craig Trotter, 156¾, decked Paul Edwards, 159¼, in Round Six, but Edwards resumed and the fight went the full eight with the more experienced Trotter a points winner. Edwards suffered his first loss in the good encounter.

Scott Brouwer, 122¼, a kid with promise, outpointed Kevin Johnson, 121½, in another good eight.

Promoter: Bill Mordey's Classic Promotions/Don King.

Attendance: 13,700.
(8-12-88)

RAY MITCHELL

PAEZ – GROVE
IBF Featherweight Title

MEXICALI — IBF FEATHERweight titleholder Calvin Grove went on record in support of 15-round championship fights before facing Mexico's flashy Jorge Paez. Grove may feel differently now.

Ahead going into the 15th, Grove was floored three times, losing his title and his undefeated record on a majority decision. One judge scored 142-142, but two had Paez winning, 142-140 and 143-140, on the basis of the final session.

Grove, 125, boxed well and frustrated Paez, 125¾, but the tremendous heat in the outdoor ring took its toll, and the titleholder displayed visual signs of weakening in the last few rounds.

The hometown fans cheered every punch thrown by Paez, even if they missed, but Grove was doing the better scoring and appeared to hurt Paez with a right to the chin in the seventh. Both landed well and mocked each other in the 10th.

By the 15th, the picture appeared bleak for Paez. But a right hurt Grove and Paez flurried, overwhelming the titleholder, who fell to the deck. Grove was up, but his legs were weak and a Paez right uppercut sent him down on his face. It looked like the end, but Grove got up quickly. Paez chased him as the capacity crowd of 12,000 roared and Grove went down a third time.

Paez tried in vain to keep Grove down as Grove held and scrambled his way to the final bell, only to hear the decision in Paez' favor. The win lifted Paez to 28-2-1, while Grove fell to 33-1.
(8-4-88)

MOON – GALAXY
WBA Bantamweight Title

SEOUL — FIGHTING ONLY his seventh pro fight, Sung-Kil Moon was awarded a technical decision over Thai Kaokor Galaxy at 0:39 of the sixth session of a scheduled 12 to become the WBA bantamweight titleholder at New Lamada Renaissance Hotel.

Each weighed the bantam limit of 118, but Galaxy, a very sturdy southpaw, came in one-third pound over and had to run in thick clothes to shed the extra poundage. In 30 minutes, he tried again, this time making 118.

Kaokor, the twin brother of WBA junior bantamweight ruler Kaosai, had iced 13 opponents in an unbeaten 18-fight career. Moon, a stablemate of new world flyweight champion Yong-Kang Kim, was an excellent amateur, compiling a 115-12 record with 72 stoppages. He was gold medalist at the World Cup Tournament in 1985 and knocked out Robert Shannon in the 1984 Olympics, though he was stopped in the first by Pedro Nolasco in the quarterfinals. Turning pro in March, 1987, Moon won six straight by KO, never going more than four rounds.

Thus, it was understandable when the 29-year-old Galaxy started by cautiously covering himself with a high guard against the 24-year-old challenger. Moon was less aggressive than usual, but took the initiative with some jolting blows, connecting with good right uppercuts and left hooks.

Moon remained aggressive in the second round, throwing short punches in combination. Galaxy's strategy was obvious. He intended to have the less-experienced bomber punch himself out before turning the tide. He did land a soft left uppercut to the body, but was content with avoiding Moon's attacks for the most part. Galaxy often smiled at Moon whenever the challenger attacked as if to say, "Is this your best punch?" and gestured repeatedly to invite Moon to mix it up.

Galaxy remained defensive through most of the third, but turned loose his specialty, left uppercuts to the body, in the final seconds. The fourth saw them exchange furious rallies, Moon throwing more punches but Galaxy landing the heavier blows, forcing Moon to retreat for awhile.

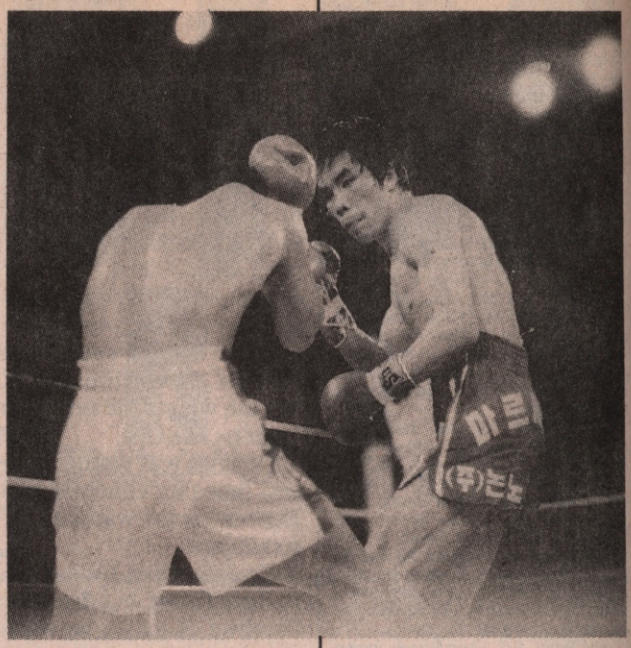
As the sixth began, they slugged toe-to-toe in ring center until heads collided. Moon winced, covering his right eye with his glove. A red ribbon streamed down from a gash above the right eyebrow and Japanese referee Ken Morita immediately stopped the proceedings to call upon the ringside physician. The cut was too bad for Galaxy to continue, so the decision went to the official cards.

Midardo Villalobos of Panama (49-48), Takeshi Shimakawa of Japan (50-49) and Silvester Abainza of the Philippines (50-45) all had Moon ahead.

Pol Tiglao, manager of the Galaxy brothers, gloomily said, "This is a business. The two will meet in a rematch to decide which is stronger. I, however, believe that Kaokor would have caught Moon soon if the fight had been continued."

The opinion of Alan K. Kim, manager of Moon, was understandably different. He said, "Moon would have stopped Galaxy before the final round, though Kaokor looked durable. Moon proved faster and more aggressive throughout the short affair."

PHOTO BY JOE KOIZUMI



Moon (right) attacks defending champ Galaxy during their abbreviated bout for the WBA bantamweight title in Seoul, Korea.

The rematch with Galaxy will have to wait as Moon will be obliged to face Edgar Monserrat, a tall Panamanian lefty, in his first defense.

In the semifinal 12, Sung-Yong Chung, 108, seized the vacant OPBF junior flyweight title as he halted Filipino champ Sonny Vidal, also 108, at 1:31 of the ninth. In Round Eight Chung had Vidal at bay, scoring with a vicious left hook followed by a smashing one-two combination. Vidal took a standing count in the ninth before Japanese referee Takeshi Shimakawa tolled the fatal 10. Chung was well ahead at the time of the stoppage.

Promoter: Palpal Promotions.
(8-14-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

KIM – CHITALADA
World Flyweight Championship

POHANG, KOREA — A LANKY underdog named Yong-Kang Kim, 112, amazed the boxing world as he captured the world flyweight championship by pounding out a unanimous decision over Thai Sot Chitalada, also 112, in 12 hot frames in Pohang Indoor Gymnasium.

Chitalada, a heavy favorite, lacked his usual zip and speed because he failed to pass the morning weigh-in on his first attempt and had to lose a pound in a sauna bath. Chitalada reportedly had weighed as much as 140 and appeared solid and fit at 118 pounds. But taking off the final six pounds drained him terribly, and the 23-year-old Korean, a former OPBF light flyweight champ, outboxed and outlegged the sluggish Thai throughout.

PHOTO BY JOE KOIZUMI

Korean Sung-Kil Moon, bandage around his head, has his arm raised in "technical" victory following his bout with Kaokor Galaxy. Moon was ahead on points when the bout was stopped at 0:39 of the sixth round because of a gash above his right eye caused by an accidental clash of heads.

The official verdict was well received by the crowd as Harold Lederman and Marty Sammon, both of the United States, each carded 116-111, while Mexican Juan Jose Guerra carded 115-114.

In the first three rounds Kim concentrated on circling without throwing any good shots. Chitalada was stalking the footworker, but was inaccurate with most of his punches. Kim showed his best in Round Four when a smashing one-two caught the champion on the button. Chitalada almost went down, but supported himself by grabbing the challenger's body. Chitalada obviously was hurt and on rubber legs and Kim turned loose, backing Chitalada against the ropes with a barrage of punches.

By the sixth, Chitalada was coming forward again, but Kim was clever and continued his hit-and-run tactics, averting the champ's wild punches. In the seventh, Kim scored well with fast one-two combinations to the face of the fading champ. Chitalada tried to fight back but was unable to catch the cautious fancy dan.

The 26-year-old Chitalada attempted to turn the tables with big punches in the last three rounds, but failed to catch the younger and fresher challenger. In the 11th round, Kim connected with one-twos and left uppercuts, but the exhausted champion covered well and nullified most of the attacks. But Kim dominated the final round, opening a gash on the right eyelid of Chitalada.

Kim was a 10-1 underdog even in Korea, but Chitalada, who had been an outstanding champion, paid dearly for his failure to make weight and fell to 14-2-1 with 10 knockouts, his other loss coming to Korean Jung-Koo Chang.

The new world champion is 17-0 with seven KOs. Born in 1965, Kim made his pro bow April 6, 1985, and in January, 1986, captured the Korean junior flyweight throne by decisioning Ha-Shik Lim. He scored an important win July 12, 1987, by beating Mexican Jorge Cano, then seized the vacant OPBF 108-pound title December 11 by stopping Thai Putt Ohyuthanakorn in 10 rounds. He retained that belt February 20, 1988, by outscoring Filipino Sonny Vidal, but weight problems forced him to move to 112 pounds. Standing 5-7, Kim is one of the tallest flyweights in The Orient.

Kim is expected to face England's Duke McKenzie and, if successful, will probably give Chitalada a rematch.

A triple title go supported the main event.

OPBF junior bantamweight kingpin Tae-Il Chung, 115, stalked negative challenger Seung-Kwan Lee, also 115, throughout, finally catching him with body shots to stop him at 2:15 of the seventh round of a scheduled 12. The tall southpaw Chung, a former IBF world titleholder, bettered his log to 26-3-1 with 11 KOs, while Lee, the OPBF's top contender, slipped to 10-10-3 with six KOs.

Chung-Oh Park, 147, became the Korean welterweight champion when he pounded out a unanimous decision over Tae-Yong Koh, also 147, in 10. Park is 11-1-1 with five KOs, Koh, 13-5-4 with six KOs.

Korean lightweight boss Sung-Uh Song, 135, proved too strong for Bong-Kyun Oh, also 135, halting him in the seventh of a scheduled 10. Song is 16-1 with four knockouts, while Oh is 7-1 with one KO.

Ex-IBF mini-flyweight titleholder Kyung-Yun Lee, 107¼, found it easy to win a unanimous nod from Hi-Chung Noh, also 107¼, in 10. Lee is 13-1 with five KOs, the sole loss coming at the hands of current WBC titleholder Hiroki Ioka via a last-round KO last January.

Promoter: Palpal Promotions.

Title bout referee: Joe Cortez.

Sanctioning body: WBC.

(7-24-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

McGIRT – DAVIS
IBF Jr. Welterweight Title

NEW YORK CITY — I HATE to say this because Howard Davis is a good guy who has never disgraced himself or the game, but I am so glad I don't have to ever again sit through another of his dull fights. All thanks to James "Buddy" McGirt, who ended Davis' last title shot, and supposedly his career, with a one-round kayo in what will probably be the last scheduled 15-rounder ever held in the United States.

The opening seconds of the bout were uneventful. Davis, who kept a very cocky look on his face throughout the brief hostilities, moved well and made McGirt miss, although McGirt was still winning the round with body shots. Then, all of a sudden, Davis stood still long enough to catch one flush on the jaw, a huge right hand with every ounce of McGirt's weight behind it, the kind of punch even the best fighter throws only once in half-a-dozen fights. Davis crashed over on his back; he managed to arise just as ref Joe Santarpia said "10," but he was ruled out at 2:45 of the first. Davis looked perfectly equable when he discovered what had happened, and a few minutes thereafter announced his retirement from the ring. We all wish him the best and sincerely hope he means it. He leaves with a record of 32-5-1, 13 kayoes, including victories over some big names, and defeats by even bigger ones. A good kid who simply wasn't championship material.

McGirt, who claimed to be defending the IBF junior welterweight title in this match, seems to be for real. He's not a terribly exciting fighter either, but he hits and can box a little besides. He's 38-1-1, 33 kayoes, and might very well win a real (i.e. recognized by *The Ring*) world championship before calling it a career. McGirt weighed 138, Davis 139¾.

Edwin Rosario keeps rolling along, this time with a clean one-round kayo over Javier Cerna (139½, Fort Worth, Texas) in a scheduled 10. Rosario (140, San Juan) hurt Cerna several times with countering rights, but a solid left uppercut put the Texan on all fours, whence he made no move to get up. Rosario is 28-3, 24 kayoes; Cerna's 17-6, five kayoes. Arthur Mercante Jr. refereed; the official time was 2:40.

Aaron Davis (151, The Bronx) stopped Sammy Floyd (153, Louisville, Ky.) at 1:03 of the seventh in a scheduled 10. Davis decked Floyd with a leaping left hook and a following flurry late in the second but was too inside-minded to finish the job; Floyd was too adept at tying him up. But Davis slowly wore his man down, and a left to the body dropped Floyd for a nine-count early in the seventh. At this point, Floyd indicated to ref Mercante his reluctance to continue and his wishes were respected. Davis is 18-0, 11 kayoes, while the veteran Floyd is 26-29-1, nine kayoes.

Alex Stewart's 16th kayo in 16 fights was an odd one. In a scheduled eight, Stewart (214, Brooklyn) was decked early in the first round by a short left hook thrown by journeyman Conroy Nelson (209½, Philadelphia), an eventuality about as surprising as if ref Johnny Colan had suddenly started to sing "Un Bel Di." But Stewart arose and fought back hard; in the second, he disabled Nelson with an aesthetically exquisite series of nut-shots. Nelson could not deal with his agony and Stewart's other (legal) punches at the same time, and ref Colan stopped it. Nelson is 16-14-2, nine kayoes.

Felix Santiago (148½, Brooklyn) ran his log to 20-1-1, 15 kayoes, stopping trialhorse Mike Essett (149, Indianapolis) at 1:48 of the sixth in a scheduled eight. Essett, 14-15-4, three kayoes, did a lot of running, slapping and feinting, but Santiago started catching up to him and hurting him in the fourth; Essett went down in the fifth from a series of body blows and was very wobbly when ref Colan stopped it in the next round.

An odd scheduled six saw Tomas Hernandez (135, The Bronx) stop Hector Espada (138½, Brooklyn) at 0:45 of the opening round when a jab split Espada's right eyebrow wide open. It was a true gusher, and ref Al LoBianco took no chances, stopping the fight at once. Hernandez is 4-2, one kayo; Espada falls to 5-2-1.

Gorilla-style heavyweight Richard Brownrigg (195, Long Beach, N.Y.) defeated fellow-stylist George Wilson (188, Wilmington, Del.) by a TKO at 2:48 of the first, scheduled four. After two-and-a-half minutes of wild flaying by both men, Wilson suddenly crumbled, a rabbit-punch helping him to the canvas. He retired on arising, claiming a neck injury, and left the ring in a brace. LoBianco refereed. Brownrigg is 7-2, one kayo; Wilson is 2-5.

Merqui Sosa (160, New York City) went to 6-0, four kayoes, by stopping Esteban Rodriguez Jr. (161, Paterson, N.J.) at 2:02 of the first, scheduled four. Rodriguez went rubbery with every punch he took, but Sosa couldn't finish him; ref LoBianco stopped it with Rodriguez still upright but being battered all over the ring.

Attendance: 2,665.

Announcer: Ed Derian.

Timekeeper: Cecilio Pedraja.

Promoter: Madison Square Garden Boxing.

Matchmaker: Bob Goodman.

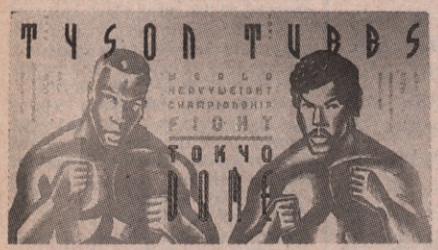
(7-31-88)

JOSEPH D'O'BRIAN

SOUVENIRS
from

MIKE TYSON vs TONY TUBBS

IN TOKYO, JAPAN



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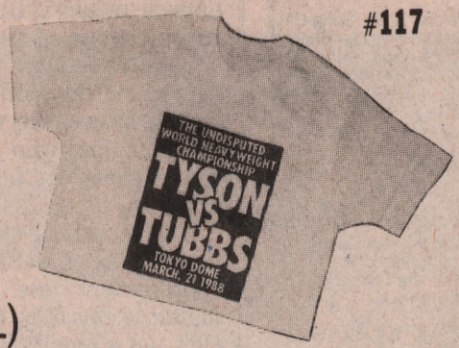

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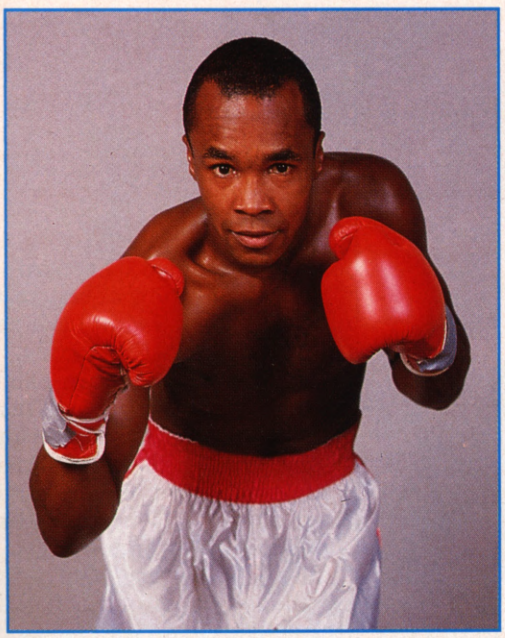
The RING SCORECARD

SUGAR RAY LEONARD ◆ VS ◆ DONNY LALONDE

12 ROUNDS FOR THE WBC LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT AND SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT TITLES

CAESARS PALACE, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



Sugar Ray Leonard
34-1 (24 KOs)

Donny Lalonde
31-2 (26 KOs)

photos by Tom Casino

ROUND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
RAY LEONARD													
DONNY LALONDE													

CUTENESS COUNTS

Leonard Vs. Lalonde In The Battle Of The Pretty Boys

by Joseph D'O'Brian

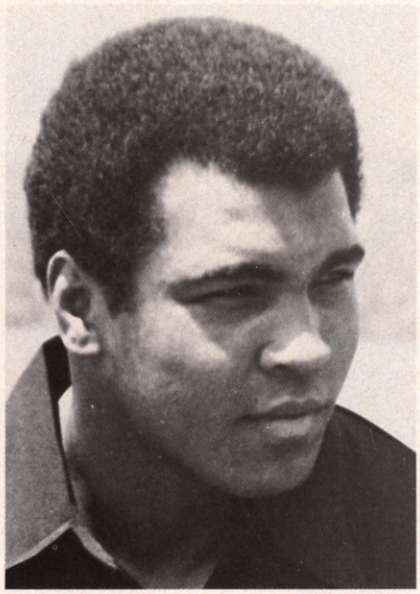
IN ITS WAY, THE DECISION BY SOME OF boxing's powers-that-be to pick Donny Lalonde to be Sugar Ray Leonard's opponent this fall was somewhat of a revolution. It's happened many times, of course, that a bout's main selling point is that one of the fighters is good looking as well as talented, but I believe this is the first important professional bout in which two Pretty Boys have gone head to head. I guess there's no real reason why this shouldn't sell tickets, but it does strike one as a little odd that (a) nobody has tried this before and (b) it's being tried now, when the market for old-fashioned pretty-vs.-ugly confrontations is still there.

Over the past couple of centuries, there has been one way to market a Pretty Boy in boxing. If you've got somebody whose looks are as important to the fans as his talents, if not more so, you want to put him in with guys whom he'll have a good chance of whipping and who are also a lot uglier than he is. It's a concept as elementary as anything you'll find in a first-grade primer: It was no accident that Cinderella's stepsisters were less well-favored than she. People like good-lookers, they root for good-lookers.

And of course there's the significant minority that goes to a fight in the hopes of seeing a Pretty Boy get his face busted up. There's a jealousy factor here, of course. Such fans resent the Pretty Boy's looks and wish that if he had to be cute, he could at least be shown up as a physical washout.

If you're trying to sell a fight to such fans, it won't do to have them come to the fight just to see your Pretty Boy get beat by someone who's even prettier. And as for those fans who actually want your Pretty Boy to win, well, fans like that are a fickle lot. You don't want them exposed to anyone whom they might suddenly find more appealing.

Muhammad Ali seldom missed an opportunity to remind everybody how handsome he was.



So I guess that explains why this sort of thing hasn't happened before. As for why Sugar Ray is fighting Lalonde instead of someone uglier, I guess there's an explanation for that, too. For one thing, there just isn't anyone else for him to fight. Sumbu Kalambay and Iran Barkley are unknown to any but the most ardent boxing fans, and as for any of the light heavyweights, forget it. At this stage of Ray's career, you have to find him the best-known opponent you can; no more of this Kevin Howard nonsense. Lalonde is practically the only game in town at Leonard's weight.

(Not to mention, of course, that certain *schlock meisters* have seen to it that Leonard, if he wins, will be awarded not one, but two, phony championships, making up his 17th and 18th world title belts, unless I've lost count. This is not terribly important to the average fan, but these gimmicks are what appeal to TV network bosses who don't know any better.)

But I guess the main reason why we're getting a pretty-on-pretty fight this fall has to do with the fact that the promoters get a "twofer" on this deal, too. If Leonard wins, they'll have a genuine ticket seller, who isn't getting any less pretty, and who will no doubt fight two or three more times in his career, each time at a massive profit. If age catches up with him and Lalonde wins, we'll have a fellow who's even better looking than Leonard, and who is blond, and for whom so far no significant marketing effort has been made.

Either way, this fight will lead to several very big gates over the next few

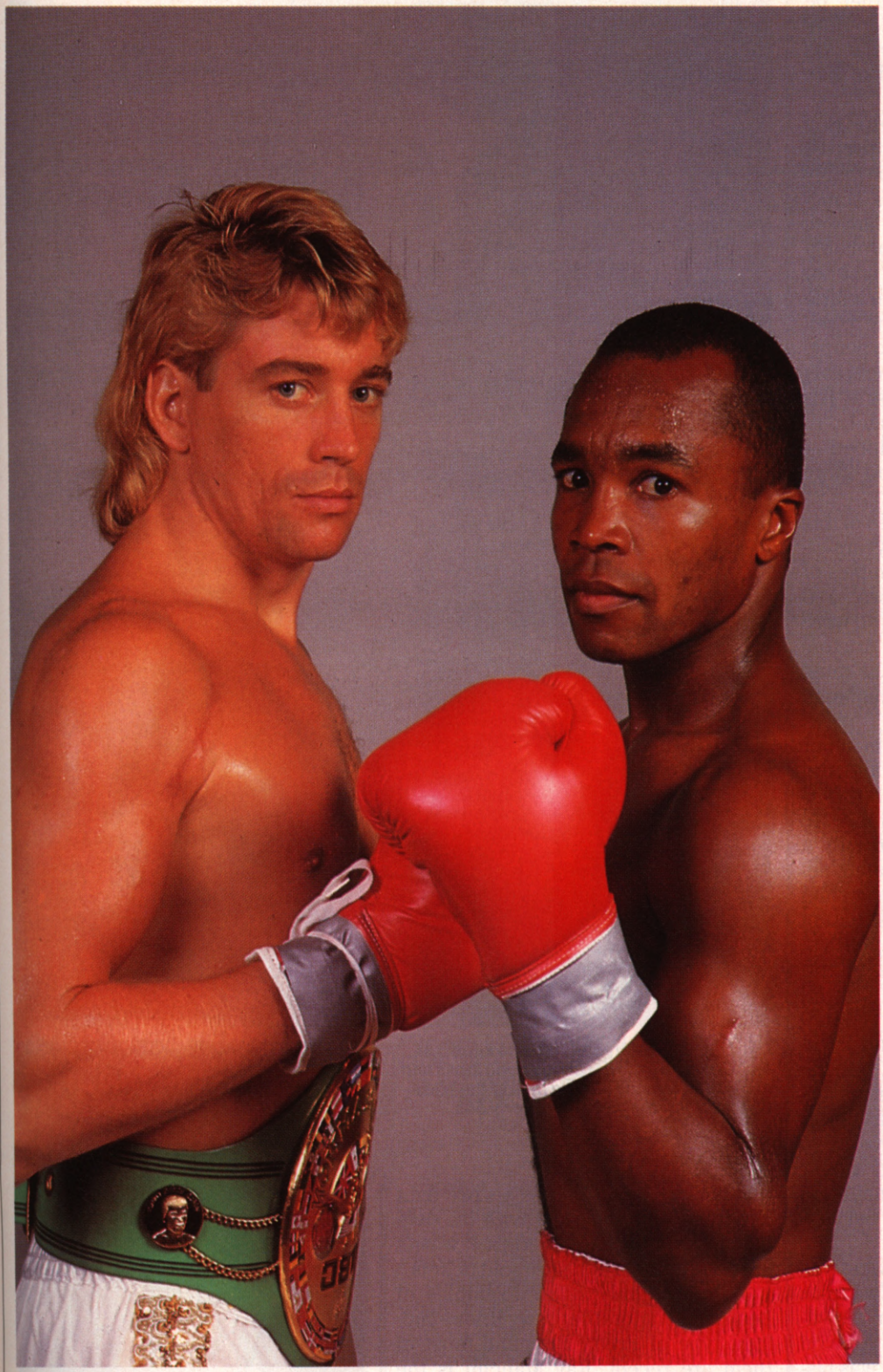


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

years, and very likely some sort of godawful TV movie besides.

You have to keep in mind, of course, that Leonard and Lalonde represent two somewhat different breeds of Pretty Boys. After all, there are several sub-species.

Leonard, for instance, is adorable. It's not so much sex appeal in his case; it's cuteness. It's as though Rodney Allan Rippy had grown up and become a fighter. He has the kind of good looks that don't make men jealous; his detractors seem to be put off more by the hype that has always surrounded him than by the fact that he's cuter than they are.

Lalonde is what his nickname says he is, a golden boy. He's the guy with the diabolical good looks, the guy who looks exactly like the fellow you imag-

ine your girlfriend would rather be with, the guy with six-foot-deep dimples and the ability to kick your ass any time he feels like it. Kind of like Joe Namath, only scarier.

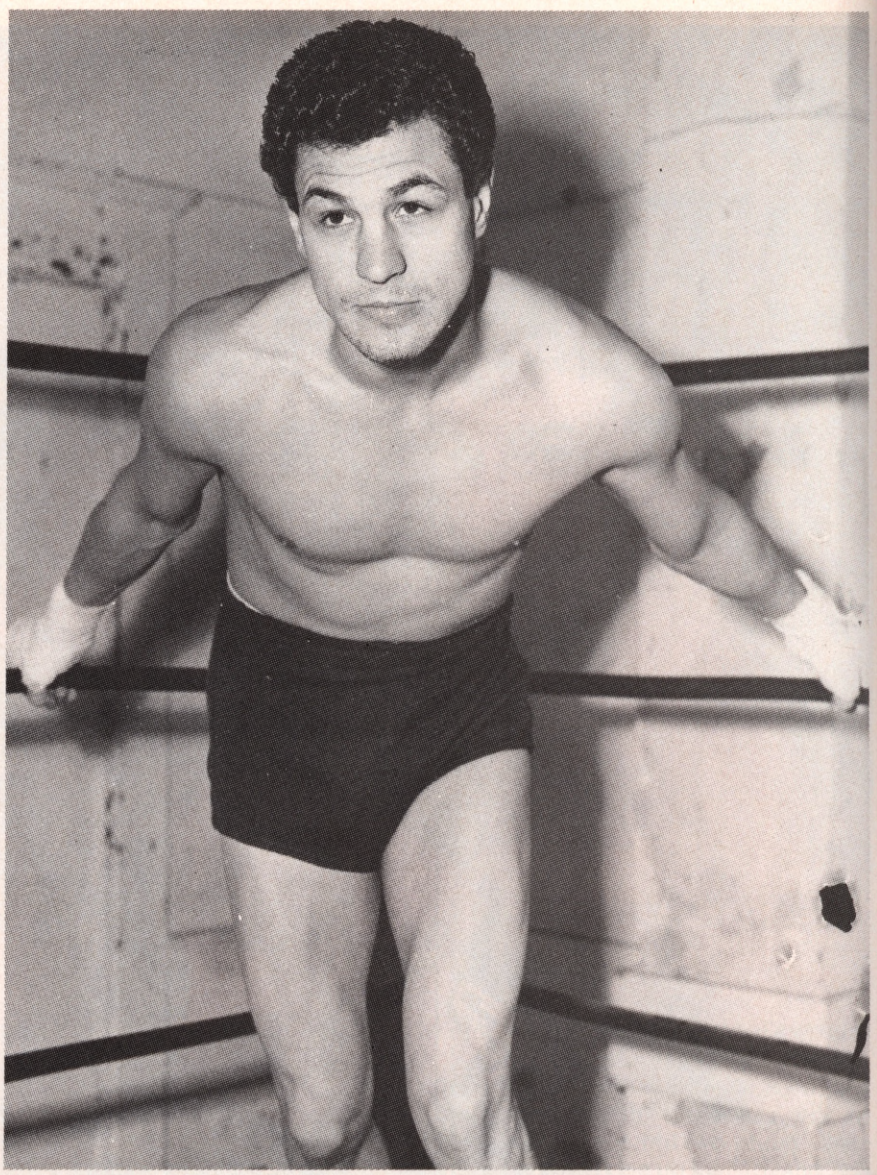
Lalonde is the kind of Pretty Boy that many fans will find themselves rooting against, I predict. He's probably a very nice fellow, but there's something mildly obnoxious about anyone who's that good looking. He's probably had more women than you've had hot dinners and you gotta' hate him a little for that, right? So, Donny's going to sell a lot of tickets over the years to people who want to see him get it, preferably with a few facial cuts on the side. His appeal will wear off immediately, of course, if he ever does get whipped — but everyone will want to be there when it happens.

There've been many examples of this type of Pretty Boy over the years — many more than there are examples of Leonard's type. Dan Mendoza, 200 years ago, was one of this type; so were Jim Corbett, Max Baer, Art Aragon, Jack Delaney, and of course the most famous example by far, Muhammad Ali.

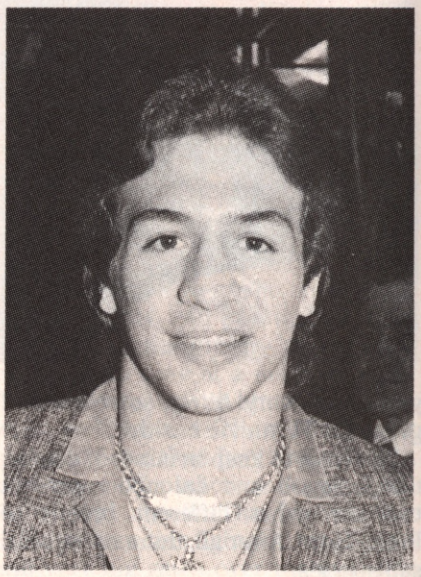
Lots of younger fans don't remember this phase of Ali's career. After all, from about 1972 on he was an entirely different sort of marketing proposition. He was an international hero, virtually a holy man whose most dedicated detractors were reluctant to criticize him too harshly. In the 1960s the situation was quite different. Before his political adventures won him the hearts and minds of just about everyone, Ali sold himself by being pretty and by reminding us of that fact. Sure, he had a few fans who really admired him, but the vast majority of the spectators at his earlier fights had come to see his pretty face busted up. You really have to go back a long time to remember a fight at which Ali's entrance was punctuated with loud boos, but it certainly did happen.

Ali's boasting about his looks was so offensive to most fans, in fact, that most of them were rooting for the villainous Sonny Liston the night Ali won the heavyweight title. Not only was Liston an unpleasant man, but he was 10 times uglier than Ali by most people's standards. His face was frankly simian, with the bullet head, broad nose, long upper lip and perpetual scowl. And boy, didn't Ali remind us of that! He said very little about his and Liston's relative merits in the ring; his pre-fight hype was all concerned with his own looks as compared to Liston's. It wasn't gracious of him but it sure sold tickets.

There are only a few examples of Leonard's adorable, sweetness-and-light type of Pretty Boy, and most of them are recent. Ray Mancini is the most notable example next to Leonard. Mancini's problem throughout his career, though, was that he took his image to an extreme. He was *so* adorable, *so* sticky-sweet, that most of us just couldn't swallow him without several grains of salt.



Like Lalonde, Art Aragon was also known as the "Golden Boy." His rugged good looks and exciting style made him the rage of the West Coast during the 1940s and early 50s.



Still very much in the public eye is Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini, whose handsome mug is now helping him with his acting career.

Max Baer has the finishing touches applied to his makeup in preparation for a movie role. Though Max ended up a professional "character" of sorts, he drove the ladies bananas in his younger days.

Turn-of-the-Century chic. Believe it or not, James J. Corbett was considered a real looker in his day.

Mancini probably would have caught on better if he'd developed Pretty Boy persona number three, the Cute Palooka. Gerry Cooney was this sort: a good-looking guy, too rough-and-ready to be called "adorable," not villainous-looking enough to be the type everyone wants to see lose. Rocky Graziano was this sort too. He had a lot of male fans who liked him because he was such an exciting fighter, but he also had a lot of female fans who wanted to take him home and feed him doughnuts.

There have also been plenty of fighters who could have been marketed as Pretty Boys, but weren't. Billy Conn was one. He was as handsome as they come, and he was a boxer rather than a slugger, which is a big advantage to anyone who's going to sell the public on his looks. But Conn was always presented to the public as a rough, brawling street-fighter who got into fistfights with his father-in-law, not as a dashing Lothario with a girl in every port, much less as a too-wonderful-to-be-true media creature.

Benny Leonard was another. He was another good looker, in a Jazz Age sort of way, with his aquiline features and his slicked-back Valentino-style hair. But Leonard toiled in obscurity for several years before upsetting Freddie Welsh for the lightweight title, and after that, his reputation was pretty much based on his ability.

It's a good thing, too, because Leonard, like his more modern namesake, made a comeback in later life after several years away from the ring. And quite aside from the painfully obvious fact that his skills were gone, the poor guy had a beer gut and a bald spot. Some fighters can still win after they've lost their looks; to a Pretty Boy it's fatal. Can you imagine Sugar Ray leaving his dentures in the dressing room or having surgery to correct his crow's feet? No, a Pretty Boy's viability, as a Pretty Boy, is of limited duration. If he's to remain marketable, he'll have to eventually become a superhuman like Ali, an advertising icon like Ray Leonard, or a professional character like Max Baer.

It really is surprising how, when you consider all the other changes in the way boxing and boxers are perceived and marketed that we've seen in the past couple of centuries, the role of the Pretty Boy in boxing has changed so little. Fighters with the same images as Leonard and Lalonde can be found in just about any era, and the public's attitudes toward them were the same as well. As I said up top, the only real aberration is that this time we've got a Pretty Boy up against another of his own kind. It should sell tickets; the only thing I'm concerned about is that once it's over, one of those Pretty Boys will have to go shopping for a new gimmick. Unfortunately, a Pretty Boy is only pretty as long as he's winning. Let him lose, just a couple of times, and old Sonny Liston becomes a matinee idol by comparison. Handsome is as handsome does, in other words. □

THE SECRET OF TYSON'S SUCCESS

Despite His Bad Boy Image, "Iron Mike's" Star Continues To Rise

by Nigel Collins

THANK GOD FOR MIKE Tyson: where would boxing be without him?

Boy, there's never a dull moment with old Mike around. Just when you thought it was safe to cruise down to Harlem's boutique district at five A.M., out jumps Mitch "Blood" Green like a banshee. Pow! Suddenly he's right in the champ's face, screaming about their mutual buddy, Don King.

Mitch "Blood" Green shows the results of his street fight with Mike Tyson. Green, who needed five stitches to close the wound, wants a rubber match with Tyson, preferably in the ring.

WIDE WORLD PHOTO

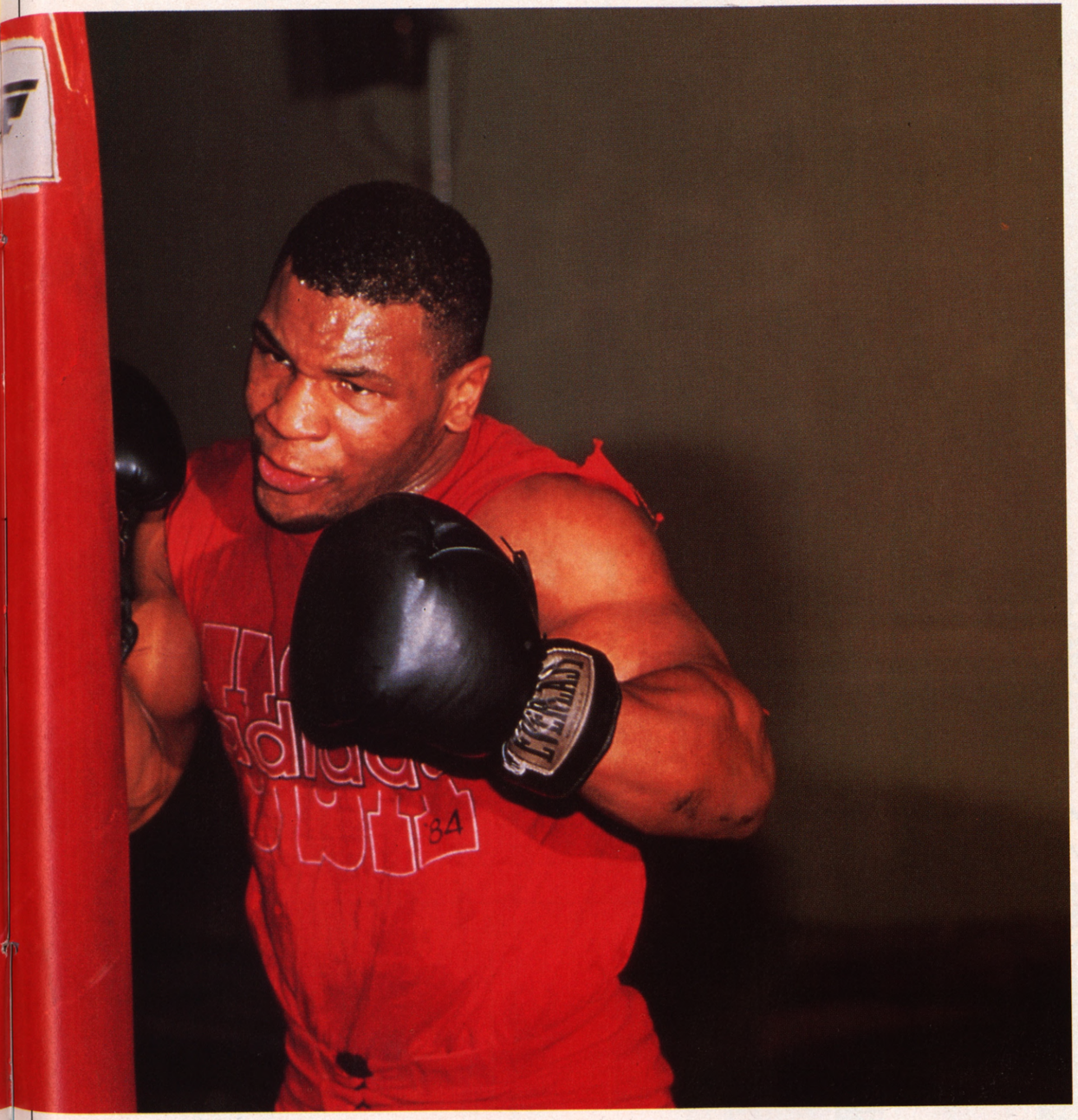


PHOTO BY PAUL J. SUTTON/DUOMO

It must have been something to see. A lot more fun than "Once and For All," I dare say. Michael Spinks is much too nice a guy to play the villain. Green, on the other hand, is perfect. His arrest record, non-stop mouth and Sly and the Family Stone outfit — complete with hairdo — make him a natural for the role.

I don't know whose version of the story is the truth. Maybe it doesn't matter. Mess with the bull, you get the horn. Both men were true to themselves. You can't hate them for that.

See Tyson

page 34

The RING RATINGS AS OF SEPTEMBER 6, 1988

HEAVYWEIGHTS (No Weight Limit) WORLD CHAMPION

MIKE TYSON	New Jersey
1. **Evander Holyfield**	Georgia
2. **Carl Williams**	New Jersey
3. **Tim Witherspoon**	Pennsylvania
4. **Tony Tucker**	Michigan
5. **Adilson Rodrigues**	Brazil
6. **Donovan Ruddock**	Jamaica
7. **Michael Dokes**	Ohio
8. **Pinklon Thomas**	Michigan
9. **James Douglas**	Ohio
10. **Orlin Norris**	California

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS (Not Over 175 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT	
1. **Charles Williams**	Ohio
2. **Virgil Hill**	North Dakota
3. **Dennis Andries**	England
4. **Don Lalonde**	Canada
5. **Tony Willis**	Illinois
6. **Bobby Czyz**	New Jersey
7. **Fulgencio Obelmejias**	Venezuela
8. **Chong-Pal Park**	Korea
9. **Lindell Holmes**	Michigan
10. **Graciano Rocchigiani**	Germany

MIDDLEWEIGHTS (Not Over 160 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

SUMBU KALAMBAY	Italy
1. **Michael Nunn**	California
2. **Iran Barkley**	New York
3. **Thomas Hearns**	Michigan
4. **Frank Tate**	Texas
5. **Herol Graham**	England
6. **Mike McCallum**	Jamaica
7. **Matthew Hilton**	Canada
8. ***Donald Curry***	*Texas*
9. ***Julian Jackson***	*Virgin Islands*
10. ***Gianfranco Rosi***	*Italy*

WELTERWEIGHTS (Not Over 147 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

LLOYD HONEYGHAN	England
1. **Simon Brown**	Washington, D.C.
2. **Tomas Molinares**	Colombia
3. **Marlon Starling**	Connecticut
4. **Maurice Blocker**	Washington, D.C.
5. **Mark Breland**	New York
6. **Juan Martin Coggi**	Argentina
7. **Roger Mayweather**	Nevada
8. **Meldrick Taylor**	Pennsylvania
9. **Manning Galloway**	Ohio
10. **Harold Brazier**	Indiana

LIGHTWEIGHTS (Not Over 135 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT	
1. **Julio Cesar Chavez**	Mexico
2. **Greg Haugen**	Washington
3. **Pernell Whitaker**	Virginia
4. **Jose Luis Ramirez**	Mexico
5. **Edwin Rosario**	Puerto Rico
6. **Amancio Castro**	Colombia
7. **Azumah Nelson**	Ghana
8. **Primo Ramos**	Mexico
9. **Tony Lopez**	California
10. **Rocky Lockridge**	New Jersey

FEATHERWEIGHTS (Not Over 126 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA	Venezuela
1. **Jeff Fenech**	Australia
2. **Jorge Paez**	Mexico
3. **Calvin Grove**	Pennsylvania
4. **Marcos Villasana**	Mexico
5. **Juan Jose Estrada**	Mexico
6. **Jeff Franklin**	Nevada
7. **Hector Lopez**	Mexico
8. **Bernardo Pinango**	Venezuela
9. **Pedro Decima**	Argentina
10. **George Navarro**	New Jersey

BANTAMWEIGHTS (Not Over 118 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT	
1. **Miguel Lora**	Colombia
2. **Kaosai Galaxy**	Thailand
3. **Gilberto Roman**	Mexico
4. **Orlando Canizales**	Texas
5. **Raul Perez**	Mexico
6. **Sung-Kil Moon**	Korea
7. **Santos Laciar**	Argentina
8. **Kelvin Seabrooks**	South Carolina
9. **Kaokor Galaxy**	Thailand
10. **Sugar Baby Rojas**	Colombia

FLYWEIGHTS (Not Over 112 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

YONG-KANG KIM	Korea
1. **Jung-Koo Chang**	Korea
2. **Sot Chitalada**	Thailand
3. **Fidel Bassa**	Colombia
4. **Myung-Woo Yuh**	Korea
5. **Hilario Zapata**	Panama
6. ***Rolando Bohol***	*Philippines*
7. ***Dodie Penalosa***	*Philippines*
8. **Ray Medel**	Texas
9. **Duke McKenzie**	England
10. **Miguel Mercedes**	Dominican Republic

The RING CALENDAR DECEMBER 1988

Jeff Fenech

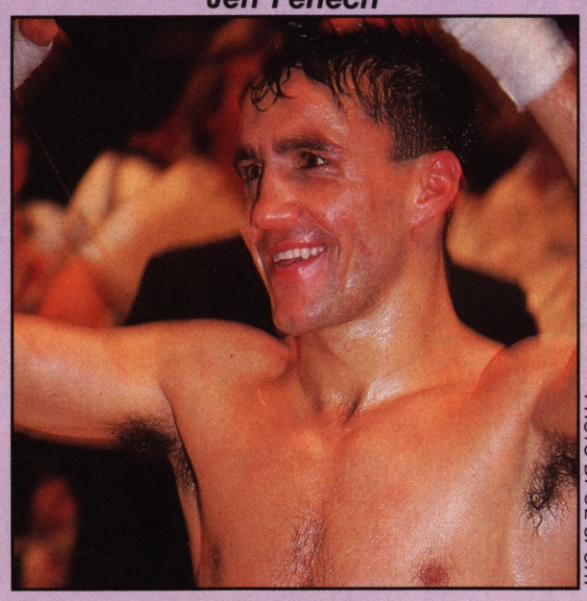


PHOTO BY OZ SPORT

1 THURSDAY
1984—Greg Page KO8 Gerrie Coetzee to win WBA heavyweight title in Sun City.

2 FRIDAY
1907—Tommy Burns KO10 Gunner Moir in London to retain title in first world heavyweight championship bout outside the United States.

3 SATURDAY
1982—Wilfredo Gomez TKO14 Lupe Pintor to retain WBC super bantamweight title in New Orleans. Round Three *The Ring's* Round of the Year.

4 SUNDAY
1961—Floyd Patterson KO4 Tom McNeeley to retain world heavyweight championship in Toronto.

5 MONDAY
1947—Joe Louis W15 Jersey Joe Walcott to retain world heavyweight championship in New York. Round Four *The Ring's* Round of the Year.

6 TUESDAY
1979—Ayub Kalule W15 Steve Gregory to retain world junior middleweight championship in Denmark.

7 WEDNESDAY
1970—Muhammad Ali TKO15 Oscar Bonavena in New York. Final round *The Ring's* Round of the Year.

8 THURSDAY
1734—James Figg, first prize ring champion, dies at age 39 in London.

9 FRIDAY
1919—Tommy Loughran makes pro debut knocking out Eddie Carter in two rounds in Philadelphia.

10 SATURDAY
1982—Michael Dokes stops Mike Weaver in 63 seconds to win WBA heavyweight title in Las Vegas.

11 SUNDAY
1982—Bobby Chacon W15 Rafael Limon in Sacramento to win WBC super featherweight title in *The Ring's* Fight of the Year.

12 MONDAY
1986—Bonecrusher Smith TKO Tim Witherspoon in 2:12 to win WBA heavyweight title in New York.

13 TUESDAY
1913—Archie Moore born in Mississippi.

14 WEDNESDAY
1986—Jung-Koo Chang TKO5 Hideyuki Ohashi to retain WBC light flyweight title in Inchon.

15 THURSDAY
1950—Ezzard Charles KO11 Nick Barone to retain world heavyweight championship in Cincinnati.

16 FRIDAY
1961—Flash Elorde TKO Sergio Caprari in 2:22 to retain world junior lightweight title in Manila.

17 SATURDAY
1952—Archie Moore W15 Joey Maxim in St. Louis to begin nine-year reign as world light heavyweight champion.

18 SUNDAY
1956—J.B. Williamson born in Indianapolis.

19 MONDAY
1913—Jack Johnson D10 Battling Jim Johnson to retain world heavyweight championship in Paris.

20 TUESDAY
1985—Chung Kwan-Chon, 11-8-4 going in, TKO4 Soon-Chun Kwan in Pusan to win IBF flyweight title. Previously, they had fought two 15-round draws.

21 WEDNESDAY
1974—Roberto Duran TKO Masataka Takayama in 1:40 to retain world lightweight championship in San Jose.

22 THURSDAY
1928—Solly Kreiger W4 Lee Page in pro debut in New York.

23 FRIDAY
1985—Kaosai Galaxy TKO2 Edgar Monserrat to retain WBA junior bantamweight title in Bangkok.

24 SATURDAY
1951—Marvin Camel born in Montana.

25 SUNDAY
1988—Merry Christmas from *The Ring* staff.

26 MONDAY
1910—Jimmy Clabby KO Gus Devitt in two minutes to retain Australian world welterweight title in Brisbane.

27 TUESDAY
1957—Tim Witherspoon born in Philadelphia.

28 WEDNESDAY
1892—Billy Plummer TKO8 Joe McGrath to retain world bantamweight championship on Coney Island.

29 THURSDAY
1881—Jess Willard born in Kansas.

30 FRIDAY
1970—Sonny Liston dies in Las Vegas at age 38.

31 SATURDAY
1963—Alberto "Baby" Arizmendi dies at age 49 in Los Angeles.

Tyson

from page 31

Green saw an opportunity and seized the moment with his usual wildman act. Tyson did what you'd expect the heavyweight champion of the world to do — he punched Green's lights out.

I would have been disappointed if he'd done anything less. And you know what? I don't think the unsanctioned bout cost Tyson a single fan. In fact, it probably won him a few more. Though sports writers continue to wring out sanctimonious sob stories about how poor Mike needs "help" and how he just might end up the most unpopular heavyweight champion of all time," it's all rubbish. That stuff about the champ being "disturbed" is also a load of bull. Tyson isn't perfect; far from it. But he's not the loose cannon the tabloids would have you believe, either.

Yeah, yeah, I know. Some folks are saying Tyson's not exactly the kind of role model we want for our kids. Maybe they're right. I don't know. But I do know one thing: kids love him. Young kids, too. Much younger than those you normally think of as boxing fans. I suppose it's not too surprising when you think about it. Mike's married to a sitcom star and has his own video game. And let's face it, as long as you have the kids on your side, the future belongs to you. Two recent incidents really hammered home the point.

The first came a few weeks after the Spinks fight. I had just finished a guest spot on Bill Mazer's radio show, which is broadcast live from Mickey Mantle's Manhattan watering hole. After my stint I saw a couple of pre-teen boys eyeing the stack of *Ring* magazines I'd brought along to give away to the patrons.

"Go ahead. Take one," I said. "They're free."

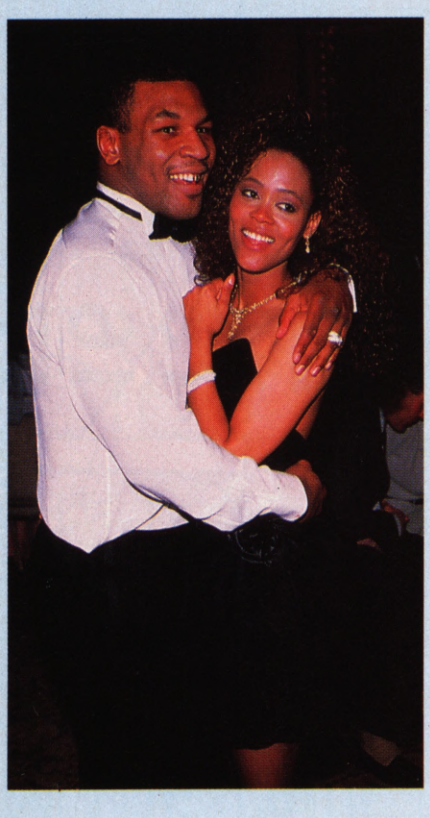
They looked unsure for a minute shifting uneasily, then one of them asked, "Is there any pictures of Mike Tyson?"

"Sure," I replied, and flipped through the pages until I found a photo of Mike to show him.

The kid's eyes lit up. He thanked me, grabbed the magazine and ran off to show his friend. Moments later, the other boy wanted one too. *Ring* fans? Hopefully. Boxing fans? Maybe. Mike Tyson fans? For sure.

A couple of months later, while footage of Green's battered mug was still playing and replaying on every TV sta-

Tyson and Dempsey... Is



Mike Tyson and Robin Givens enjoy their wedding reception.

DUOMO PHOTO BY LORI GRINKER

A GREAT DEAL CAN BE LEARNED ABOUT boxing if you stop to listen to one of those forgotten old pugs who sit nobly in the corner of any given bar the night of a big fight. I was lucky enough to be sitting next to one of those taproom historians the night Mike Tyson dismantled Pinklon Thomas.

He sat there on a stool, hunched over a mug of beer, his keen old eyes analyzing every movement of the combatants. His raspy voice, the ancient scar tissue around the eyebrows and his battered nose told me he knew a bit about life on both sides of the ropes. He only spoke between rounds.

"A lot like Marciano, huh?" I ventured as Tyson pulverized Thomas.

"Not really," he replied. "I wouldn't say so. He fights more like Jack Dempsey."

He stared at me for a moment, then turned his attention back to the screen. "But a guy your age couldn't know too much about Dempsey."

There was almost a hint of sympathy in his retort.

Of course, the old bugger was right. Not only does Tyson fight like Dempsey, he also exudes the mannerisms and tastes of "The Manassa Mauler" outside the ring. In a way, it's almost as if history is replaying itself for the current generation of fight fans. Unless you believe in reincarnation.

Under the guidance of Cus D'Amato, Tyson not only learned to fight, he studied boxing history from the days of the bareknucklers right up to the reign of Larry Holmes. Tyson buried himself in the vast film library of co-managers Jim Jacobs and Bill Cayton, soaking in the lore and nostalgia of the prize ring. Could Tyson have chosen, perhaps subconsciously, to become a modern day Dempsey? There are more than a few similarities.

Like Tyson, Dempsey fought out of a crouch, constantly moving in a bobbing and weaving fashion so taller men would be forced to punch down at a mobile target. Both learned to pressure their way inside and unleash furious volleys of head and body punches. Both ended a lot of fights early with devastating punching power. Photo-

tion on the planet, I discovered my nine-year-old niece going through my collection of back issues of *The Ring*. She was giggling and searching for pictures of Tyson. He wasn't very cute, she allowed, but he had big muscles, could fight "real good" and had "lots" of money. Parents, meet the role model of the late 1980s. To your kids "Iron Mike" must seem like their favorite Saturday morning super hero come to life.

While Tyson could very well be building a lifelong constituency among "Double Dare" devotees, his appeal cuts across the generation gap. I'm sure the 30-something crowd was tickled pink seeing Mike (hand in cast) and Robin presenting an Emmy on TV's annual award gig. Live from Pasadena no less. Who was the last fighter to do that? And don't think there aren't a lot of guys out there who wouldn't love to find Robin Givens under their Christmas tree.

Yes, there's plenty to identify with in Tyson.

Admittedly, not all of it good.

It would be foolish to deny the Jekyll and Hyde conflict raging within him. The proof is in the life he's led. But how could it be otherwise? How could there be a heavyweight champion so powerful, so brutally dominant without that rage? It's been the same for every great heavyweight champion; Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali. They've all battled the inner conflicts, paying the price for their greatness mentally, as well as physically. It's nothing new. It's tough to name a great fighter who *didn't* lead a turbulent life. It comes with the territory.

We've always liked our heroes to be a bit of a rogue, especially boxers. I suppose it's all part of the vicarious hero-worship syndrome — living out our fantasies through the deeds of others. Most men, in their heart of hearts, would love to be the heavyweight champion. Why not? You could kick anyone's tail, get away with practically anything you wanted.

Bad boys have always sold a lot of tickets, partially for this reason. They're always in the news for another. Tyson has been Page One for most of '88. There's been nothing remotely like it since Ali's heyday.

Of course, extracurricular activities aside, the thing that really turns on the masses is the way Tyson fights. It's the one part of his life with which even his harshest critics have difficulty finding fault. The champ comes out swinging for the fences and doesn't ease up until it's over. The only problem is, there's nobody around right now to bring out the best his art has to offer.

Dempsey had his Firpo, Louis his Conn and Ali his Frazier. But not every

History Repeating Itself?

by John Reeves

graphs of both fighters in action show angry expressions of "bad intentions" on their faces. No "Joe Louis deadpan" for Mike or Jack.

Other similarities between the pair can be found outside the ring. They share the bond of a disadvantaged youth. Dempsey, a child of poverty, rode the rails and fought in hobo camps. Tyson, a product of the mean streets of Brownsville, became a rebellious street fighter and ended up in a reformatory before learning to channel his aggressions in a positive manner through boxing. Though separated by seven decades, they rode the same vehicle to respectability and affluence.

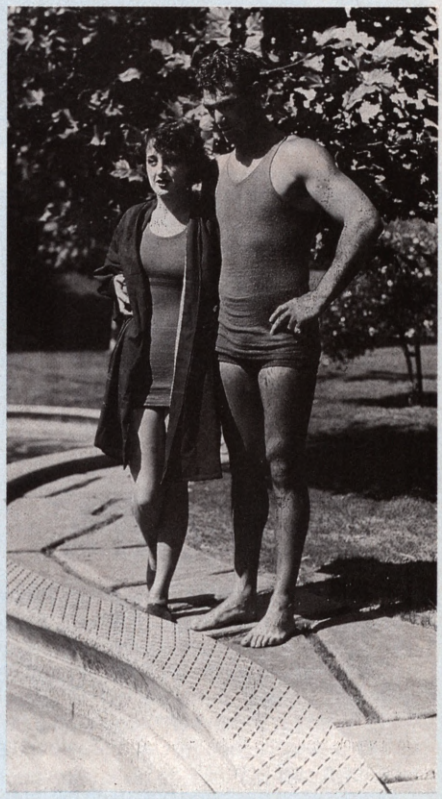
Then there is the matter of haircuts. Just look at any picture of Dempsey and compare it to one of Tyson. Iron Mike wears his the same way Dempsey used to — thick on top, but shaved on the sides. And while on the subject of grooming, both have also been known to miss a few days' shaving. And you thought Don Johnson invented the stubble look.

After winning their titles, Dempsey and Tyson married beautiful actresses. Immediately, the press raised doubts as to why the women married boxing champions. Was it for love or money? Dempsey eventually divorced his actress/wife Estelle Taylor. But despite the negative press Robin and Mike have been getting, let's hope history doesn't repeat itself on this count. They deserve to live happily ever after.

Finally, it seems pretty obvious that no man alive can beat Tyson slugging. The boxer who eventually dethroned Dempsey (Gene Tunney) was a slickster who could stay out of danger by hitting and moving — some say running.

Maybe the same kind of fighter will beat Tyson one day. He would have to be about 10 years old right now so he'll be in his prime when Tyson is an old man.

Or maybe Tyson has learned from the past and will retire before that happens. Only time will tell just how much history is repeating itself. □



Jack Dempsey and actress/wife Estelle Taylor contemplate a dip in the pool.

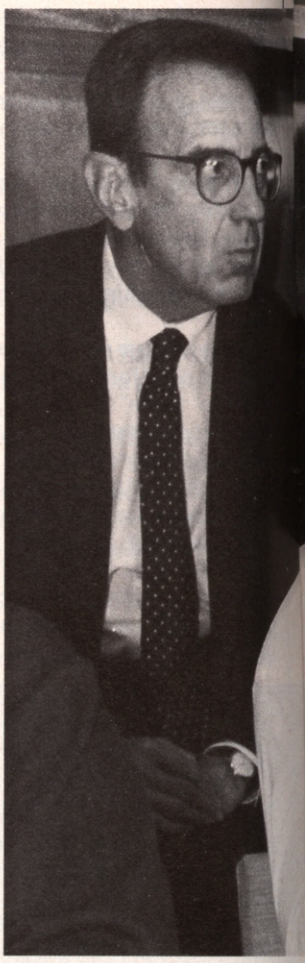
great champion is fortunate enough to be blessed with an adversary good enough to elicit his genius. Rocky Marciano wasn't. Neither was Tunney, who beat a Dempsey almost as far gone as Larry Holmes was when Tyson toppled him.

Forget about Frank Bruno, Adilson Rodrigues, Francesco Damiani and the rest of the no-hopers currently on Tyson's tentative itinerary. Let's even try to forget Mitch Green for awhile. Nobody playing with a full deck thinks these dudes stand a chance, anyway. Maybe a contender capable of providing Mike with more than a multi-million dollar workout will develop over the next 12 months (see "Five for the Future," page 36). But boxing can survive without one for a little while longer.

Fortunately, Tyson's fights, like Ali's, have gone beyond the realm of mere sporting events. They have become sociological happenings, ritualistic gatherings for the rich and famous. The caliber of his opponent is almost incidental.

Meanwhile, back in the neighborhoods, Joe Average orders the pay-per-view on his cable and invites all his buddies over the house for a "fight party." They have better seats (and eats) than most of the live crowd, including the $1,500 customers. Everybody is happy.

As long as Tyson keeps knocking over the bodies placed in front of him, his popularity will continue to grow. For after all, whether we approve or not, when you're the heavyweight champion of the world winning *is everything*. Even Mitch Green knows that. □



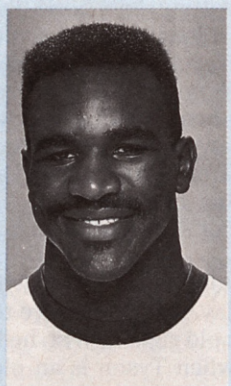
Mike Tyson, hand and arm in a cast, held a press conference following his street brawl with Mitch "Blood" Green. Also in attendance was NBA basketball player Walter Berry, who was with Tyson when the unscheduled bout occurred outside a Harlem boutique. A few weeks later, Tyson was hospitalized again after ramming his car into a tree. Fortunately, the champion's injuries were not serious.

WIDE WORLD PHOTO

FIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Pretend it's a year from now. Mike Tyson has bashed Bruno, run amok with Rodrigues and damn near decapitated Damiani. He's also made a hit rap video with Hulk Hogan and punched out Big Foot while filming a Pepsi commercial on location at a remote lake in Canada. Now it's time for a real fight.

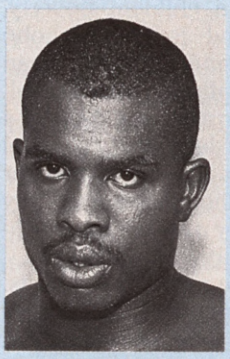
While Tyson has been busy with his international flavor-of-the-month tour, several serious contenders have made good use of the time to hone their skills. While it is always risky to try to predict the future, we've never been bashful about going out on the proverbial limb. So here are five candidates who might — just might — give Tyson a competitive fight sometime in late 1989 or early 1990:



Evander Holyfield: Tyson's best bet for a true test.

PHOTO BY WILL HART

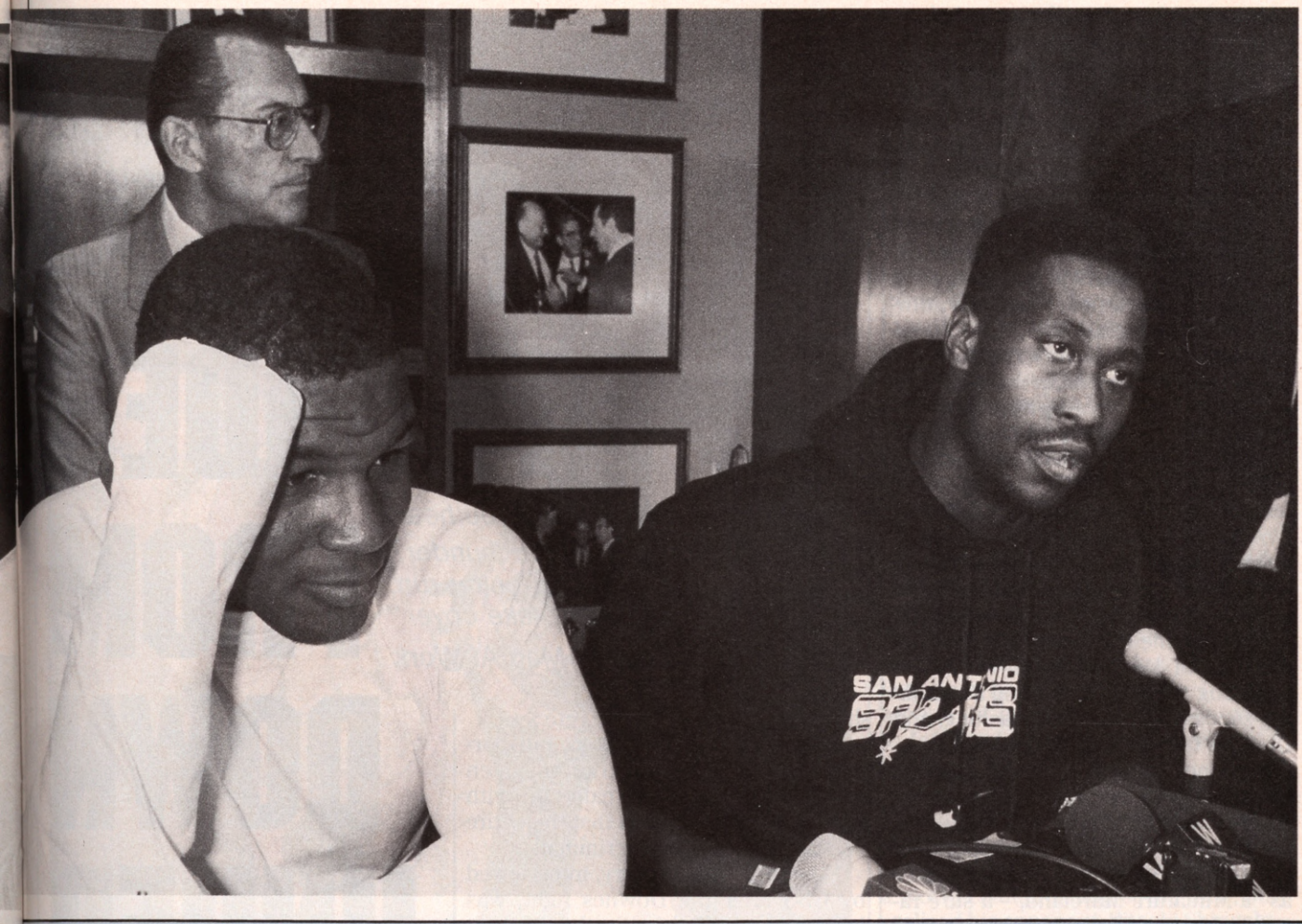
EVANDER HOLYFIELD: No big surprise here. Holyfield is a class act with a load of talent. Everybody is looking forward to the day "The Real Deal" climbs into the ring to face Tyson. While I'd love to see him tangle with another good, young prospect on his way to a showdown with "Iron Mike," that's probably too much to hope for. More likely, Holyfield's management will round up the usual suspects (Pinklon Thomas, Trevor Berbick, etc.) and hope Evander disposes of them in a fairly impressive manner. Holyfield's well-publicized scientific "bulk-up" should have him weighing around 212 pounds by next winter and whether he beats Tyson or not will depend strictly on who is the best fighter.

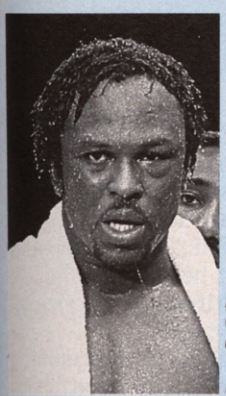


Razor Ruddock: Jamaican jaw-cracker.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

DONOVAN "RAZOR" RUDDOCK: A lot of people are excited about the new Canadian heavyweight champion. That's probably because he's a transplanted Jamaican and a far cry from the George Chuvalo type face-fighter normally associated with our neighbor to the north. The most encouraging thing about Ruddock is that he seems to be improving. When he outpointed former WBA champ Mike Weaver a few years ago, Ruddock ran like a thief. But recently, he's been sitting down on his punches and bombing out most of his opponents. A mobile, well-proportioned 225-pounder, Ruddock appears to have quite a lot going for him. Whether it's enough to give Tyson a run for his money remains to be seen.

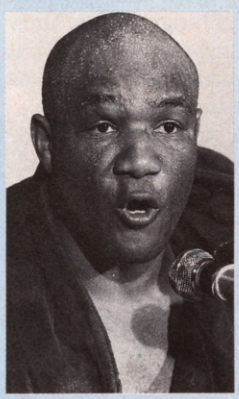




Michael Dokes: Clean and on a comeback.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

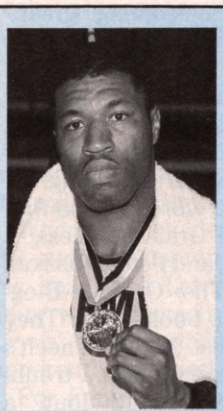
MICHAEL DOKES: Despite once briefly owning a piece of the heavyweight title, here's a guy who never really lived up to his potential. Ravaged by drug abuse, Dokes faded into oblivion for a few years, but has recently surprised a lot of folks with a gutty comeback. Finally clean of cocaine, he seems to have reclaimed many of his old skills. Fat and slow when he first embarked on his comeback, Dokes has shown how serious he is by gradually shedding the flab. And while he's bowled over a number of tomato cans, he also tackled (and stopped) James Pritchard, who was considered hot stuff until he ran into this veteran campaigner. A long shot? You bet. But who isn't?



George Foreman: A hit on the golden oldie circuit.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

GEORGE FOREMAN: I can already hear the groans. Has the old editor finally flipped his lid? Well, not completely. I'm not suggesting Foreman can beat Tyson, only that he'll get a chance — and probably do a bit better than some of the younger studs who've taken a crack. At his current pace, the "Fighting Preacher" will probably have tallied around 20 straight knockouts on the golden oldie circuit in another year's time. This, along with his consistently high TV ratings, and maybe a win over a fringe contender (perhaps Orlin Norris), should finally garner Foreman an opportunity to regain his old crown. Sure, he'll get clobbered. But I have a sneaking suspicion Big George will make Tyson earn his pay check.



Ray Mercer: Army champ looking for Olympic gold.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLY DOVE

RAY MERCER: The U.S. heavyweight entry in the Olympic games is 27 years old and understandably in a hurry to get his pro career in gear. A gold medal in Seoul would catapult Mercer into the limelight. Though he'll need more time to develop than the other boxers under discussion here, Mercer has a gift for the gab which should also help speed him along. According to contributing editor Jonathan Shapiro, who covered the box-offs for *The Ring*, the Army champion has "the hand speed of a middleweight, a blazing jab and a shark's feel for a victim." Sounds almost too good to be true. But at this stage of the game, there is every reason to be optimistic. □

— Nigel Collins

JEFF FENECH-THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER

"Can't you hear,
can't you hear the thunder?
You better run,
you better take cover"
"Down Under" — Men At Work

by Phill Marder

JEFF FENECH HAS WON THREE WORLD titles. Did it in less time than it takes to say "G'day, mate." He's won all 21 of his professional fights, 18 by knockout. He's become a national hero in his native Australia, perhaps that country's greatest sports figure ever.

Still, something's missing.

"As an Australian, he's earning a lot of money at this stage," said Fenech's promoter, Bill Mordey. "But there's a lot more to be earned. What he's done down here is remarkable, but to earn the sort of money he deserves he's got to get into the American market."

The first push to bring Fenech to the attention of the American boxing public was made by CBS-TV, which telecast Fenech's defense of his WBC featherweight title against Trinidad's Tyrone Downes in August. The network invaded "The Land Down Under" hoping Fenech would prove to be the real goods. Fenech did not disappoint.

Cut over the left eye by a first-round collision of heads, Fenech became a punching whirlwind, proving a smashing success. He did the smashing, and Downes fell in the fifth round.

For once, a fighter seemed capable of living up to his advance hype. But did he want to? From the beginning, *The Ring's* Australian correspondent Ray Mitchell was touting the youngster as "a Miniature Marciano," "a sure future champion," "a coming great." Mitchell has been around a long time. He's not prone to touting every local pug just to win friends or boost interest in Aussie fisticuffs. When he wrote, people took notice. Fenech helped by impressing in almost every outing.

But others wrote words not so flattering, particularly Grantlee Kieza, a Fenech cornerman, and Peter Muszkat, whose "Fenech, The Official Biography" recently hit bookstores. They paint a portrait that bares Fenech's flaws. He was a street punk, a troublemaker, an inconsiderate lout, a spoiled brat, a nasty disagreeable kid who cheated his way through school. As an adult, Fenech is shown to have changed, but he is still likely to make outlandish comments about opponents, such as "I'll bash him . . . I'll tear his head right off . . . I want him to feel all the pain . . . I want to bust him up . . . Of course I could bash him in one round if I really wanted to, but I'm going to let it go the full 15 . . . I'll make every round agony for him . . . You'd look pretty funny with your head shoved up your arse" . . . etc., etc., etc.

CBS, preparing a background portrait of Fenech designed to enlighten the American viewers, came up with the startling conclusion that the entire country worshipped a criminal!

Fenech's mother, Mary, interviewed by CBS after the Downes fight, was less than thrilled with the portrait painted by Fenech's biographers. Mary admitted, "He wasn't a good boy," but she added quickly that he wasn't as bad as he was made out to be.

Fenech, speaking from his home several days after the Downes fight, admitted that, except for a few minor errors, the book was an accurate picture. His mother was shocked because he didn't tell her of many of his escapades. But the same Fenech who seemed to boast of his earlier transgressions a few years back played a softer tune in this discussion.

"A 12-year-old boy in a boys' home is a little different than being in jail," Fenech said. "I've done things wrong, but I'd never rob anybody's house. That's just not me."

Fenech's trainer, Johnny Lewis, has been credited with turning Fenech's life around. He befriended the street hood, taught him how to box and is still teaching him how to control his temper and how to make his fury work for him, not against him.

"Up until you're 16 or 17, you're entitled to a few mistakes," said Lewis. "I don't think he's a criminal.

"He is the most loyal kid in the world," Lewis added. "He would die to save a friend. But he can also be the cruelest, most terrifying, most vicious person alive."

Jeff's father died just several months ago after a long battle with a bad ticker. His mom spent a great deal of time keeping her hospitalized husband company. Fenech was often left on his own and to his own devices. His apparent goal was to see how much trouble he could create. Prior to hooking up with Lewis, Fenech was loyal to a few close friends, but most unfortunate enough to come into contact with him saw the other side. Since hooking up with Lewis, Fenech has been far from angelic, but he does seem to be making a conscious effort to become a role

OZSPORT PHOTOGRAPHY

model for Australian youths, saving his terror for opponents.

He has taken the retarded Con Spyropoulos under his wing and donates freely and regularly to local charities.

"Con's a year older than me, but he's just like my little boy," said the bachelor. "I have to look after him, but it's more a pleasure than a job. He knows there's somebody there for him. I love kids. I was a little kid in the streets. Jeff Fenech has become someone special in Australia now. If I can help someone who needs it, why not? I've had a lot of help, especially from Johnny Lewis. I made a few mistakes, but nothing major. I hope the young people in Australia will realize there is light at the end of the tunnel."

By the time CBS did its post-fight interview with Fenech following the Downes victory, the Australian sounded more like a campaigning politician than a terror run amok.

"Boxing gave me a second chance," Fenech explained. "I appreciate the opportunity. I'm not mellowing, I owe these people something, and I really mean it from the heart. I'm not going to talk bs to win friends. There's no way in the world I'd say something I didn't mean to make a few friends or a few extra dollars."

Lewis agreed, adding, "Maturing's the word. Years ago he could have gone the wrong way, but he's matured into a perfect citizen. He's got a very large amount of built-in aggression. But I've never had any problem with him inside or outside the ring. He's made me very proud inside the ring, but he's also made me very proud outside. He made a few juvenile mistakes, but I think the last time he was in trouble he was around 14 or 15. Boxing's been good to Jeff, but I also think Jeff's been good to boxing."

Lewis did have a problem with Fenech after he won the IBF bantamweight title in just his seventh fight. Lewis figured Fenech wasn't ready for a world championship at the time, but realized his opponent, Sitoshi Shingaki, was even less qualified to call himself champion.

"When they offered me a title shot, I said, 'Don't be bloody stupid. We've had only six fights.' When they showed me tapes of Shingaki, I couldn't believe it. I said, 'Jeff can beat this guy.'"

When Fenech destroyed Shingaki, the sudden fame and wealth went to his head, and Lewis threw him out. Only when Fenech agreed to follow Lewis' every word did the pair re-unite, apparently for good.

For Fenech may not have the best education, but he's smart enough to know when he's with Lewis good things happen. When he's not with Lewis, he's unhappy — to the point where he won't fight unless Lewis is in his corner. Lewis was unable to accompany Fenech to the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. In spite of Fenech's reputation, he was named the Australian team captain because of his tremendous prowess and was considered a good bet to become Australia's first gold medal winner in boxing. He could

have clinched no less than a bronze by beating Yugoslavia's Redzep Redzepovski, which he did by a 3-2 margin, according to the judges. But the jury reversed the decision and suddenly Fenech's dream had become a nightmare.

Fenech told the press gathering, "I've worked so hard for the chance to win Australia's first boxing gold medal at the Olympics, only to have the chance taken away by a bunch of senile old men."

fee, who was supposed to have a great jab. Jeff out-jabbed him."

A non-title win over Daniel Zaragoza, again on points, started 1986, then came McCrory and Fenech's opportunity to revenge his Olympic disappointment.

"That was the toughest fight," Lewis recalled. "That's when we had the first inclination of his hand problems, and he was struggling to make the weight. He'd gone virtually three days without food and was very tired. He got on the

round KO. The weight problem just encouraged his dream.

"The kid's got a burning ambition," said Mordey. "He wanted to be the first to win four world championships, but Tommy Hearns beat him to it. Then he said, 'We'll make it five,' but I think Sugar Ray Leonard's going to get there first. Then he said he'd probably bruise Mike Tyson's knees!"

Quickly, Fenech gave up his bantam title, gained a couple pounds and took Samart Payakarun's WBC super ban-

Jeff Fenech (left) on his way to a 10th-round kayo over Victor Callejas for the WBC featherweight title.

OZSPORT PHOTOGRAPHY

Detroit's Steve McCrory eventually took the gold, but Fenech didn't even wait for the closing ceremonies. It was back to Lewis and to the beginning of a pro career. Six months and seven fights later, he was the IBF bantamweight titleholder.

Jerome Coffee was the top contender, but Lewis stalled for time in order for Fenech to learn his trade. He banged out two foes in non-title fights, beat up Shingaki in an unwarranted return, fought another non-title match, then was forced to face Coffee. For the first time, Fenech was taken the distance, but after 15 rounds he was still champ.

"Jeff can box," said Lewis. "He had to call on his boxing skill against Cof-

scales and was four pounds over. I wanted to forget about it. The fight would go on as an over the weight match, but we'd just lose the title on the scales. The next morning at six o'clock he called and told me he made the weight. But he looked bloody awful and he felt terrible."

Fenech remembered, "People were saying how easy it would be, but I went into the fight in a great deal of pain."

Still, Fenech prevailed with a 14-

tamweight title. But a few more pounds made it necessary to vacate that title as well. No problem. Fenech pounded Victor Callejas into a 10-round KO defeat earlier this year to win the WBC featherweight title.

Three world titles in three different weight classes in just 20 fights and 3½ years. The accomplishments made Fenech a national hero and a wealthy man. But he's too proud a fighter to be satisfied with just a portion of this crown, a slice of that one.

"We have tried with each division to unify it all, but we were just falling on deaf ears all the time," said Lewis. "Any boxer thinks it's nice to say 'I am *the* world champion.' It tends to make it all better. With the featherweight divi-

sion, we hope we have time to do it."

Fenech had no difficulty making 126 pounds for the Downes fight. With Hearns and Leonard racing to become the first to win five world titles, it is finally becoming clear that winning a handful of world titles is no big deal nowadays, anyway. So Fenech would like to stay at 126 pounds awhile, at least long enough to beat Antonio Esparragoza, who is generally recognized as the legitimate claimant to the world featherweight championship.

"I'll fight anybody," said Fenech. "I don't really know that much about Esparragoza. We're a little in the dark here in Australia. We rarely get tapes of anyone. But I'm very confident as long as I prepare the way I do I can unify the featherweight title. It means a lot to me. I've won three world titles, and that's great, but I would have liked to have unified them. It's disappointing, I don't feel I get the recognition I deserve."

Lewis has matched Fenech carefully and has publicly stated he would give up a title rather than put Fenech in with someone he didn't feel he could beat. But Lewis agreed a match with Esparragoza is a must.

"As a featherweight, I don't think there's anyone I'd worry about at all," said Lewis. "I believe I can put Jeff in with any nine-stone fighter in the world. It's impossible for him to get tired."

Mordey indicated talk with Esparragoza's camp has already begun. But nothing has been firmed up and it's possible the Venezuelan will want no parts of Fenech. In the meantime, discussions are on concerning defenses against George Navarro, Hector Lopez, or both.

"Naturally, for the American audience, American television would like an American opponent," Mordey noted. "But I don't care who they offer. At 126 pounds, he's just too strong for anyone. At 130 pounds, if they match us with Barry McGuigan, we'd love to fight him."

Both Navarro and Lopez are young, quick and talented. Both will be tough tests. But Fenech, to prove he is the best featherweight in the world, will be forced to face the best. And to make an impact in the United States, he will have to do it in front of the American fans. The Downes fight was just the beginning.

"There were 1,200 empty seats, and I would have preferred selling out," said Mordey of the Melbourne crowd that numbered around 14,000 for Fenech's first defense of his feather belt. "But the response from the people in Melbourne was amazing. Downes was a good fighter. You don't get to be No. 1 or Commonwealth champion if you can't fight a little."

And Lewis was quick to add, "We had a concert and an Australian rules football game that same night. If those two events weren't going on, they would have been sitting on the roof."

But Fenech's American television bow came close to being disastrous. Before the first round was half over, he was bleeding badly from a cut left eyebrow.

"When it happened, I didn't think it was that bad," said Lewis. "It might have looked bad the first two rounds, but we stopped the bleeding. It was the second time he'd been cut. The one on his cheek against Carlos Zarate was worse. But Jeff didn't know the extent of it in the first round and started trying to load up.

"We were very happy with that fight," Lewis added. "His hands are fine. The problem stems from an abnormality. He can't make a proper fist, the index finger sticks out on both hands. He's developed a lump on the left hand and that's caused him a lot of pain, but there's never been any broken bones. They thought there may have been a stress fracture after the Callejas fight. He came back after the second round and said, 'Johnny, I think I've broke me hand.' He said he knew he could have knocked him out in the fourth round, but the pain went right up the arm."

Downes, a 30-year-old with a 28-5, 10 KOs record going in, weighed 123 to Fenech's 125¾, but even if Downes had scaled 126 it is unlikely the result would have been different. Once Fenech settled down, he started manhandling his challenger, tossing him around like a stuffed koala bear. Fenech knocked him down in the fourth with a jab and an uppercut to the body, then added a knee to the jaw as his momentum carried him forward. Before the round was over, Fenech dropped him again, then added a left hook to the head while Downes sat on the canvas, just for good measure. Fenech's first punch of the fifth round, a right to the body, sent Downes down again. He rallied briefly, but Fenech's body attack sent him down a fourth time and Texan referee Steve Crosson had seen enough.

Lewis recalled, "Downes said to me the punch sapped the wind right out of him, that he couldn't breathe."

Fenech added, "I knew the body shots were hurting him and it was just a matter of time. After I hit them, they just try to survive and it makes things a little awkward. Maybe I should have slowed up and worked my jab. I think I learned something from that fight.

"I'll probably watch the film of that fight 200 times before my next fight," Fenech added. "I'm a strong believer that if I don't improve for each fight, I should get out of the sport. I'm still improving."

How good can Fenech become?

"It's very hard to pinpoint how far he's progressed," said Lewis. "But I really do believe he's recognized only about 60 percent of his potential. He can go on to be an all time-great as a featherweight, and he could be a great lightweight. The only thing holding him back right now is experience."

If all goes well, that experience will be gained in front of an American audience.

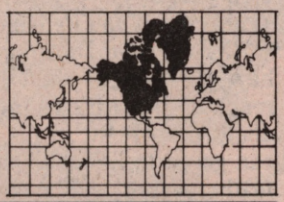
"We could make Australia proud if we fight in America," said Lewis. "It's the fight capital of the world, and it would be nice to say we didn't have all backyard fights. Jeff's very keen to go to America. If you can make it there, you can make it anywhere. We'd love to think we can be accepted there.

"I can understand him being compared to a pocket-size Marciano," Lewis added. "But there's a touch of Roberto Duran about him. There's a little bit of a few fighters in him. He likes Marvin Hagler, his toughness, but he loves Duran. He gets his biggest buzz out of watching Duran fight."

Fenech concluded, "I'm doing my country proud and I'm making myself proud. I'm sure my career at the end kept my dad alive for another couple of years. I'm going to live here in Australia the rest of my life, but people here don't sit up and take notice until Americans take notice. They're taking notice now because they're realizing Americans are taking notice.

"I can't wait for people in the States to have the chance to see what they really like, a real fighter. After a few rounds, I hope they will be cheering me like the Australians do. I'm sure once they get a taste of me they'll want more." □

The RING AROUND THE WORLD



NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

▶**GUADALUPE**—El Tianguls—NABF welterweight champion **Luis Santana** had a much easier title defense than anticipated as he defended his belt with an early stoppage of Joe "Cool" Garcia.

Santana, 147, Hawthorne, ended it at 2:21 in the second of 12, allowing himself and manager Jimmy Montoya to listen to a salsa band while the sun set in the Spanish courtyard where the ring had been set up. It was hard to tell if their similar grins came from the fast night's work or from the many senoritas in what seemed like a movie scene. Immediately after the fight, the band cranked up and much of this village started dancing around the ring.

On the canvas dance floor, it was Santana who had all the good moves as he raised his listing to 33-7, 26 KOs. Garcia, Houston, now 14-2-3, came in with an amateur listing of 270-15 and the 21-year-old was considered a serious threat. Although Garcia won the first round, it was only because the veteran Santana was studying him. Santana opened up at the end of the round to test his theories and Garcia landed a couple counters. Garcia went to his corner with misguided confidence and came out for the second looking a little too "Cool." The two measured and traded without incident, but Santana was imposing his will, though Garcia didn't see it coming. Garcia scored with some rights to the body, but the more Santana got hit, the more he opened up. Santana came alive and suddenly it wasn't cool for Garcia any more. Santana came on behind good rights, then hooked from both sides up and down the body, never letting up. Santana conked Garcia down, then smashed him up into a corner. Ref Ron Myers jumped in and waved Santana off as Garcia floated down the ropes to the floor.

Adam "El Mirage" Garcia pounded out a unanimous, 10-round decision over Tony Montoya in a battle of 126-pounders. Garcia came with a cheering section that would inspire anybody and was much more active as he scored well with left jabs in the early going. They started trading body shots in the third and Garcia's superior conditioning became evident. Garcia won the first five rounds one-handed, popping in lefts that couldn't seem to miss. Following his corner's advice to the letter, Garcia mixed some uppercuts which hurt Montoya. Montoya was battered and ready to go in the eighth, but hung on through guts and natural ability, making a fight of it until the final bell. Garcia rose to 16-7. Montoya went home to Salt Lake listed at 19-5.

Louis Rodriguez, 2-1, Phoenix, KO'd Eddie Doran, 2-2-1, Las Vegas, at 1:51 in the second of a set six. Both weighed in at 135, but similarities ended there as Rodriguez properly demonstrated the difference between boxing and fighting.

The evening opened with a fine 122-pound debutant bout which saw Ken Flott win a unanimous, four-round decision over Henry Bausby, all judges seeing it 38-37. Flott won it on a knockdown in the third as the two traded sloppy but nonstop punches throughout. Action was even wilder outside the strands when a screaming woman pushed the fighters off the ropes from outside, then managed to land punches on a commission member, the ring announcer and the round card doll before security disqualified the fanatic.

Promotion: Promociones Castellanos.
Announcer: Gordon Wood.
Physician: Charles Howard.
Judges: Mike Munoz, Bob Cox & Ray Hughes.
Timekeeper: Sam Munoz.
Attendance: 855.
(6-18-88)

▶**TUCSON**—Holidome—**Jose "Gaby" Canizales** notched his 30th KO, stopping Julio Blanco, 122, Monterey, Mexico, at 2:08 in the seventh of 10. Canizales, 40-5, 118½, had reportedly won a disputed decision between them in '87, but this time there was no doubt as Blanco's listing dropped to 38-12.

Each fighter stayed busy, but the action was less than spectacular as the first three frames saw most of what leather was thrown connect only with other leather. Blanco was content to feint around the ring's edges, while Canizales chased him from corner to corner, unable to close the corral. Canizales started landing good rights in the fourth which inspired Blanco to respond and almost win a round with a few sweeping shots at the end of the fifth. It was not enough as Gaby probed like a sculptor chiseling away at Blanco's survival pose. The result was no masterpiece, but the chips fell where Canizales wanted when Blanco could no longer block many smacks. Blanco managed to frustrate Canizales throughout the sixth, but in the seventh Canizales upped the pressure. A short left bludgeon from the shoulder dropped Blanco into the Burt Reynolds foldout position. Blanco almost sleepwalked his way up, but toppled to the canvas and lay dreamily as if trying to get a tan while ref Ron Myers counted 10.

For Canizales, it was back to Laredo, Texas and another positive step in an erratic career. Brother Orlando Canizales' recent success seems to have inspired Gaby as he maneuvers for another title shot. Tonight's activity kept him on the good side of the fringe.

The "Scrap of the Card" saw the successful debut of Charles Hawkins, 125½, Phoenix, as he stopped tough, but limited local Hector Esquivel, 126, now 1-2. Ref Myers signalled the knockout at 1:28 in the third of four. Overall, this was a close, quality affair, with both fighters deserving a bonus in addition to solid cheers.

Raul Marquez Jr., 153½, 2-0-1, Tucson, added his own tattoo job to the many already adorning Joe Mendoza, 154, Phoenix, now 2-5, with a unanimous decision over four rounds. If scored for effort it was a draw.

Rodger "The Flavor" Mills, 3-2-1, 176½, Tucson, won a dull boxer-slugger brawl over Fernando Garcia, 1-4, 178, Tucson. The two had been local up-and-comers, but Mills showed he alone has made progress. The difference was Mills' jab and the one good punch of the fight, scored by Mills in the fourth and final round.

Calvin Christensen, 2-0, Phoenix, 153½, didn't lose a round on any card in taking a unanimous, four-round nod from Jesus Rendon, 4-5-1, Douglas, 147¾. Christensen pistoned his way in with strongarmed jabs, then reminded us of the "protect yourself at all times" rule when he decked Rendon with a left to the back of the head as Rendon had turned to speak to the ref. Christensen landed many legitimate shots before and after that incident, but none did near the damage. All judges saw it 40-35 Christensen.

You could've cancelled the first four frames and had a great two-round walkout bout as Raul Pineda, 12-5-1, 125¾, Tucson, won a unanimous six-round decision over Luis Coronado, 8-5, 123, Douglas. They opened by slapping gloves and nothing else, doing quite well if they were aiming for air. For invisible reasons, this stinker immediately blossomed into a fine battle after the bell for the fifth, with flailing swings and bloody noses traded non-stop to the end.

Promotion: Pro Box Arizona.
Physician: Art Martinez.
Timekeeper: Mariachi Changuito.
Attendance: 1,225.
(6-3-88)

PHIL WOOLEVER

CALIFORNIA

▶**FRESNO**—Jorge Diaz, 123, San Jose, knocked out Mike Moreno, 123, Tucson, Ariz., at 2:56 of the sixth round in a scheduled 10.

Diaz, 33-8-2, ranked 11th by the International Boxing Federation, dropped Moreno, 21-7-1, with a barrage of punches late in the sixth. Moreno rose at eight but a textbook right by Diaz seconds later ended the fight.

Diaz controlled the bout throughout, forcing Moreno to the ropes and working combinations to the body and head.

Diaz suffered a cut in Round Two that forced referee Terry Smith to call on ringside physician Doug Stein. The bout resumed and Diaz picked up the pace.

Jorge Rivera, 147, San Diego, went right-hand crazy on Steve Gutierrez, 146, Merced, stopping Gutierrez at 1:26 of the eighth in a scheduled 10.

Gutierrez, 12-3, never found a way to dodge the sledgehammer right of the awkward, southpaw Rivera, 12-2, 10 KOs.

Francisco Chavez, 117, Huntington Beach, knocked down Merced's James Dean, 115, twice with left hooks and stopped him at 1:28 of the fourth.

Attendance: 1,025.
Physicians: Doug Stein & Ramon Galindo.
Promoter: Valley Promotions (Bill and Dean Hargrove).
Matchmaker: Ernesto Fuentes.
Timekeeper: Glenn "Red" Bailey.
Judges: Terry Smith, Jack Campbell & Pros Montano.
(6-13-88)

▶**DEL MAR**—Fairgrounds—Tony Byrd, 166, Pomona stopped Juan Hernandez, 164¼, Los Angeles, at 2:04 of the fourth for the vacant California super middleweight title.

Byrd, 18-1-1, six KOs, floored Hernandez, 22-8, 15 KOs, in the third but Hernandez battled back, landing an unanswered barrage of punches. Byrd turned things around again, escaping from the ropes and landing a flurry of his own, surprisingly prompting referee Pat Russell to stop the fight.

Randy Leaks, 193, Campo, decisioned I.V. Nalls, 222, Los Angeles, through six rounds.

Judge Fritz Werner scored it 60-54, Frank Rustich had it 59-56 and Danny Millsap had it 59-55, all for Leaks, who improved to 6-0, four KOs. Nalls dropped to 14-4-1, two KOs.

Sergio Sambrata, 129, San Diego, and Hugo Orosco, 130, San Diego, fought to a four-round draw.

Orosco is now 3-0-1, one KO, and Zambrata is 0-0-1.

Russell had it 49-47. Werner and Millsap scored it 48-47.

Francisco Chavez, 120, Huntington Beach, won a five-round, unanimous decision over Kid Melo, 119, Culiacan. Chavez is now 7-2 with one KO. Melo fell to 15-10-4 with 11 KOs.

Promoter: Bob Dephillipis.
Matchmaker: Guillermo Mayen.
Physician: Michael DeLuca.

Timekeeper: Danny Millsap.
Announcer: Fred Lewis.

▶**RIVERSIDE**—Raincross Square—California lightweight champion **Rico Velasquez**, 139½, Baldwin Park, scored a technical knockout over David Guerra, 142, San Diego, after two rounds of a scheduled 10. Velasquez (20-5) staggered Guerra (8-19) repeatedly in the second and opened a cut over his eye. At the end of the round, the ringside physician examined the injury and ordered the bout stopped. Rudy Jordan, referee.

A doctor's decision also terminated an eight-round semi between Stewart Baynes, 143, Pasadena, and Carlos Montez, 143, Fresno. Montez (10-7-2) was game enough, but Baynes (9-8) dominated, opening a large bloody gash over Montez' right eye. Raul Caiz, referee.

Kenny Comer, 141½, Santa Ana, kayoed Hernan Cortez, 137, Fresno, with a hook to the liver in 2:56 of the second of a scheduled six. Comer (7-2) ran his Riverside winning streak to four. Bert Gilliam, referee.

Kola Havea, 171, Riverside, shut out equally limited Jay Morgan, 175, Fresno, over four. Havea (1-3) won on aggression, but both boxers tired badly. Gilliam, referee.

Promoter: Joe Coloumn.
Matchmaker: Jerry Niss.
Physicians: Michael DeLuca & Mario Ficarola.
Timekeeper: Willie Arreola.
Announcer: Danny Valdivia.

(6-22-88)

▶**REDONDO BEACH**—Aviation Gym—Ricky Romero, 113½, Torrance, had to go the distance to unanimously outscore Javier "Suzuki" Diaz, 114, Piedras Negras, over 10. Romero (13-0) picked up most of his points with the jab. The aggression of Diaz (40-13) made it close. Scoring: Raul Caiz 96-95; Kenny Davis 97-93; Dick Young 98-92. John Thomas, referee.

Bruno Rabanales, 133, Hidalgo Chiapas, won a 10-round, split decision over Robert Lewis, 132, Los Angeles. The more positive work of Rabanales (21-8-3) earned the votes of judges Young (99-91) and Bert Gilliam (98-92), while Caiz (96-95) favored Lewis (9-13-3).

George O'Mara, 232, Van Nuys, and I.V. Nalls, 223, Compton, drew, six. Originally scheduled for four, the additional rounds helped O'Mara (11-5-1) more than Nalls (4-3-1). Scoring: Young 58-56 Nalls; Gilliam 58-56 O'Mara; Davis 57-57. Caiz, referee.

Promoter: John Ellis.
Matchmaker: Obdulio Munoz.
Physicians: Bernhart Schwartz & Michael DeLuca.
Timekeeper: John Liechty.
Announcer: Danny Valdivia.

(6-24-88)

▶**RESEDA**—The Country Club—**Frankie Duarte**, 118, Venice, forced to take a fight when a proposed WBA bantamweight title shot fell through, kayoed Ron Cisneros, 118, North Glenn, in 2:51 of the seventh of a scheduled 10. Cisneros (25-20-1) proved to be the perfect opponent. He tested the chin of slow-starting Duarte (43-7-1) while winning the second round on all cards. But Duarte took every other round and floored Cisneros twice in the seventh. The Colorado veteran wanted to quit after the second knockdown, but referee Dr. James Jen-Kin correctly refused to stop the fight until Cisneros' corner threw in the towel. Duarte had previously halted Cisneros, also in the seventh, in September, 1985.

Young Dick Tiger, 150, Hollywood, also proved that an earlier win was no fluke when he flattened Jaime Montano, 148, Obregon, Mexico, with a left hook in 1:57 of the fourth of a scheduled 10. One of Montano's six losses (26 wins, all by KO) came at the hands of Tiger (27-4) in six rounds (October, 1986). Referee Lou Filippo completed the 10 count.

The career of Steve Lewis, 139½, North Hollywood, looks in jeopardy after Pedro Aguirre, 142, Los Angeles, scored a devastating knockout over the popular local fighter. A left sent Lewis crashing face first to the canvas in 1:30 of the second of a scheduled six. Aguirre (11-2) also floored Lewis (14-4) in the first. Kenny Davis, referee.

Unbeaten (9-0) Jose Rincones, 121, Long Beach, took only 4:40 to stop game but overmatched Mickey Bates, 118, Davenport, in a scheduled four. Bates (6-1) was dropped for eight in the opening seconds and was floored heavily in the second. Bates struggled up, but referee Filippo called it off.

Kid Melo, 125, Culiacan, and Juvenal Molina, 125, East Los Angeles, fought to a technical draw in 2:22 of the second of a scheduled four when Molina (6-8-3) was cut over the right eye by a head butt. Melo (15-9-4) was winning easily. Davis, referee.

Promoter: Daniel Goossen "Z" Channel Television.
Matchmakers: Obdulio Munoz & Larry Goossen.
Physicians: Bernhart Schwartz & Robert Karns.
Timekeeper: Ernie Snow.
Announcer: Michael Buffer.

(6-29-88)

▶**IRVINE**—Marriot Hotel—Levi Billups, 211, Quail Valley, won the California heavyweight championship with an upset, fifth-round knockout of defending champion Mike White, 270, Long Beach. White (22-8-1) had Billups (14-3) in trouble at the end of the third round. But the much shorter ex-football linebacker outmuscled and outconditioned the seven-foot White before sending him down in the fifth with a left hook to the chin. Referee Lou Moret stopped the fight at 2:07 without starting a count.

Louis Hernandez, 128, Redlands, clearly outscored Rigo Felix, 128¾, Laverne, over six. Hernandez (10-7-5) won unanimously (59-56, 60-54, 59-55), but suffered a cut over his left eye in the final round from a head clash. Larry Rozadilla, referee.

Johnny Tapia, 114½, Albuquerque, remained unbeaten in four starts (one draw) by stopping Martine Perez, 115½, Chino, in 1:51 of the first of a scheduled five. Perez (1-1) had been down and was under pressure when referee Dr. James Jen-Kin stepped in.

Even quicker was Ben Lopez, 134, Upland, who took only 0:40 to stop Jerry Rosenberg, 136, Hollywood. Lopez (5-4) scored two knockdowns in the first of a scheduled four. Jen-Kin, referee.

Celio Olivar, 150, Colton, rallied to win an exciting four-round, majority verdict over Parrish Johnson, 151, Hollywood. A draw would have been fair to both Johnson (1-1) and hard-trying, aggressive Olivar (5-2). Scoring: Gwen Adair 38-38; Rozadilla, Moret 39-37.

Victor Hernandez, 127½, Redlands, and Rahn Porter, 128, Los Angeles, drew in the four-round show opener. Comebacking Hernandez (1-1-2) won the first two rounds. Debuting Porter dominated the final two. Rozadilla, referee.

Promoter: Don Fraser.
Matchmaker: John Cabrera.
Physicians: Michael Deluca & Mario Ficarola.
Timekeeper: Aaron Koslow.
Announcer: Danny Valdivia.

(6-30-88)

▶**RESEDA**—The Country Club—**Rico Velasquez**, 135, Baldwin Park, impressively retained his California lightweight title by knocking out Robert Lewis, 134½, Los Angeles, in 1:38 of the fifth of a scheduled 12. Velasquez (21-5) won every round and forced Lewis (9-14-3) to take a standing count just before the stoppage. Chuck Hassett, referee.

Marcellus Allen, 175, Portland, was a near shutout points winner over Robert Underwood, 175, Los Angeles, eight. Allen (9-0) frustrated Underwood (5-4) with hand and foot speed. Lou Filippo, referee.

Nate Houser, 174½, also made the most of his national TV exposure with an end of the fourth-round TKO of Terry Verners, 174, Fresno. Houser (6-1) had been down for a count of eight in Round Two from a right to the chin. But a left hook to the liver dropped Verners (4-3-1) for nine late in the fourth. Filippo then stopped this scheduled six between rounds on the advice of the ringside physician.

Efrem Sargent, 151, Pomona, and Ronnie Wiswell, 154½, Bakersfield, fought to a technical draw in 0:21 of the third of a scheduled four when Wiswell (4-5-1) was cut above the right eye by a head butt. Sargent (0-1-1) was ahead on points. Hassett, referee.

Jay Morgan, 176½, Fresno, proved an easy mark for David Kilgour, 180, Canoga Park, who won by countout in 1:46 of the second of a scheduled four. Kilgour improved to 6-1. Morgan fell to 0-3. Filippo, referee.

Promoters: Daniel Goossen, ESPN TV.
Matchmakers: Obdulio Munoz & Larry Goossen.
Physicians: Robert Karns & Bernhart Schwartz.
Timekeeper: Aaron Koslow.
Announcer: Michael Buffer.

(7-1-88)

▶**INGLEWOOD**—The Forum—**Paul Banke**, 122, Quail Valley, moved into the finals of The Forum Super Bantamweight Tournament with an extremely hard-fought 10-round, unanimous decision over two-time Olympian **Robert Shannon**, 122, Lynnwood. There were no knockdowns, but Shannon, (16-3-3) collapsed in agony after consecutive below the belt blows in the seventh. Banke (14-3) was penalized a point for the fouls but his tenacious aggression carried him to victory in the final three rounds. Scoring: Lou Moret 97-92; Vince Delgado 96-93; Larry Rozadilla 97-93. Chuck Hassett, referee.

Kenny Mitchell, 118, Houston, easily retained his USBA bantamweight title by stopping Gilbert Contreras, 118, Fort Worth, after eight rounds of a scheduled 12. Mitchell (17-7-3) floored Contreras (15-5) late in the eighth and won every round. Dr. James Jen-Kin, referee.

Slow-starting **Bobby Berna**, 132, Las Vegas, rallied to knock out Ariel Reyes, 132, Monterrey Park, in 0:34 of the sixth of a scheduled eight. Reyes (22-3) was still even on the scorecards when he elected to go down for referee Moret's full count. Berna (30-5-1) is a former IBF super bantamweight champion.

Jerry Okoro, 169½, Quail Valley, turned in an excellent performance as he shut out Robert Underwood, 169½, Los Angeles, over six. Underwood (5-5) could not get anything going offensively. Nigerian light heavyweight champion Okoro (16-5) intends to campaign as a super middleweight. Rozadilla, referee.

Veteran Rocky Alonso, 130, Bakersfield, unanimously outpointed Rigo Felix, 130, Laverne, in a six-round show closer. Alonso (29-19-2) was too experienced for Felix (6-5). Scoring: Hassett 58-56; Moret 60-54; Rozadilla 59-55. Delgado, referee.

Victor Flores, 127½, Lennoy, scored a convincing six-round, unanimous points win over Juvenal Molina, 124¾, Los Angeles. Molina (6-9-3) was floored in the first and again in the third. Flores has a 3-2-1 record. Scoring: Hassett 59-53; Moret 57-55; Delgado 59-54. Rozadilla, referee.

Two-bout pro Vince Wilkerson, 149½, Los Angeles, evened his record with a four-round, unanimous decision over debuting Lisiate Lavulo, 152, Long Beach. Lavulo faded appreciably after the first round. All three officials scored 39-37. Delgado, referee.

Promoter: Jerry Buss.
Matchmaker: Antonio Curtis.
Physicians: Michael Deluca & Robert Karns.
Timekeepers: Aaron Koslow & Mike Millsap.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.

(7-13-88)

▶**SAN DIEGO**—El Cortez Hotel—Dino Homsey, 197, Scottsdale, who is making a habit of beating touted prospects, sensationally upset Cecil Coffee, 200, Nashville, in 2:06 of the second of a scheduled 10. Homsey, with a deceiving 4-3 record, was on the receiving end for most of the first before flooring Coffee (18-2-2) late in the round. Offensive-minded Coffee continued to attack in the second, but short punches up the middle had him out on his feet, forcing the intervention of referee Fritz Werner.

Jose "Zurdin" Rios, 131, Tijuana, kayoed last-minute substitute Rocky Alonso, 130, Bakersfield, referee Pat Russell counting out Alonso in 2:01 of the first of a scheduled eight. Southpaw Rios (12-2) had dropped Alonso (29-20-1) for eight earlier in the round.

Revitalized James Williams, 163, Tucson and San Diego, unanimously outpointed Rickey Locke, 165, Bakersfield, over eight good rounds. Williams (5-17) established his dominance by flooring Locke (9-21-2) in the first. Scoring: Hal Rickards, 80-71; Russell 78-74; Danny Millsap 78-73. Frank Rustich, referee.

Gilbert Baptist, 154, San Diego, kayoed German Mendoza, 154, Tijuana, with a hook to the body in 3:00 of the second of a scheduled six. Referee Millsap counted out Mendoza. Baptist has seven wins and eight losses.

Carlos Montez, 147½, Fresno, who like Alonso arrived less than an hour before fight time, was shut out over four by unbeaten (5-0) Jesus Ramirez, 146, Mexicali. Millsap, referee.

Promoter: Bob Dephilippis.
Matchmaker: Guillermo Mayen.
Physicians: William Lundeen & Michael Deluca.
Timekeeper: Mike Millsap.
Announcer: Ernie Swanks.

(7-21-88)

▶**IRVINE**—Marriott Hotel—**Paul Gonzalez,** 115, Cerritos, bounced back from his USBA title loss to Ray Medel with a unanimous, 10-round decision over Javier Diaz, 115, Piedras Negras. Gonzalez (9-1) appeared tentative in the early rounds, often falling short with his punches. The much shorter Diaz (40-14) rallied briefly in the seventh, but the Olympic Gold Medalist regained control in the eighth after opening a cut over Diaz' right eye. Scoring: Robert Byrd 99-91; Pat Russell 97-94; Pat Connolly 99-92. Lou Filippo, referee.

Unbeaten (15-0) Genaro Hernandez, 130, Los Angeles, methodically outpointed survivor Jose Mosqueda, 130¼, Los Angeles, not losing a round, 10. Mosqueda has neither the stamina nor the ambition to throw punches. Connolly, referee.

Francisco Chavez, 119½, Huntington Beach, confirmed his superiority over Kid Melo, 119¼, Culiacan, by winning unanimously, six. Chavez (8-2) was a bit too polished for the hard-trying Mexican. Scoring: Filippo 58-56; Connolly 58-56; Byrd 60-54. Russell, referee.

Pressure fighter Richard Demarco, 160, Huntington

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Beach, forced the corner of James Fenderson, 156, Baldwin Park, to throw in the towel in 1:46 of the third of a scheduled four. Referee Russell stepped in just as southpaw Fenderson (0-2) was going down. Demarco (5-2) won both completed rounds.

Improving Kola Havea, 168, Riverside, won a hard-fought, four-round majority verdict over Greg Holiday, 168, Hawaiian Gardens. Holiday (0-2-1) was down without a count in the third from a Havea (2-3) right uppercut. Scoring: Filippo 39-37; Connolly 38-38; Russell 39-38. Byrd, referee.

Promoter: Don Fraser.
Matchmaker: John Cabrera.
Physicians: Michael Deluca & Mario Ficarola.
Timekeeper: Mike Millsap.
Announcer: Roy Englebrecht.
(7-25-88)

▶**LANCASTER**—Antelope Valley Fairgrounds—Unbeaten (14-0) Ricky Romero, 113, Torrance, unanimously outpointed Ramon Solis, 114½, Nuevo Laredo, 10. Scored 99-91; 99-91; 98-92. Rudy Jordan, referee.

Miguel Juarez, 121½, Los Angeles, halted Hector Diaz, 121½, Tijuana, in the seventh of a scheduled 10. Diaz was cut and on the deck when referee Kenny Davis stepped in.

An overconfident Carlton Brooks, 152, Los Angeles, was kayoed by Abel Cordova, 160½, Los Angeles, in the second of a scheduled eight. Brooks (8-3-2) had floored the comebacking veteran and was going in for the kill when he was smashed to the mat by the same up the middle punch. Referee Bert Gilliam completed the count.

Debuting Ernest Williamson, 157½, Los Angeles, won a four-round, majority decision over Caleb Ramos, 156, Oxnard. Ramos (1-5) lost a point for a low blow. Scored 38-36; 38-36; 37-37. Gilliam, referee.

Promoter: Essex Sports Entertainment, Inc.
Matchmaker: Johnnie Flores.
Physician: William Filer.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
Timekeeper: Joe Robledo.
(7-25-88)

Jeff Franklin and trainer Hedgemon Lewis, the former welterweight contender, celebrate Franklin's 10-round unanimous decision over Hugo Anguiano in Reseda.

▶**RESEDA**—The Country Club—World-ranked USBA featherweight champion **Jeff Franklin**, 128, Las Vegas, scored a unanimous, 10-round decision over California champion Hugo Anguiano, 128, Los Angeles. The deceptively quick Anguiano (12-12-1) gave Franklin (20-2-3) problems early, but after a third-round war Franklin steadily pulled away. The outstanding efforts of both were rewarded by a shower of paper by ringsiders. Scoring: Lou Filippo 98-92; Rudy Jordan 98-94; Gwen Adair 96-95. John Thomas, referee.

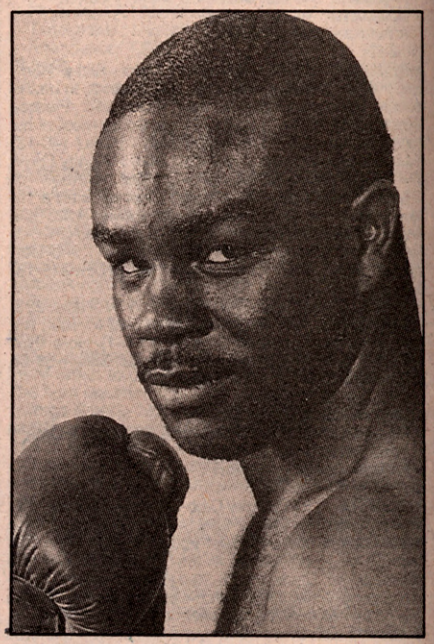
Young Dick Tiger, 148, Hollywood, unanimously outpointed Mexican Olympian Octavio Robles, 148, Mexico City, 10. Tiger (24-4) floored Robles (12-5) face first for nine in the first. But Tiger relaxed the pressure and Robles was in the fight the rest of the way. Scoring: Adair 98-91; Tony Guitron 99-90; Thomas 98-92. Filippo, referee.

Mike Hunter, 208, Los Angeles, burst the bubble of Dino Homsey, 198, Scottsdale, in 2:54 of the fourth of a scheduled 10. The surprisingly aggressive Hunter (11-2-2) floored Homsey (4-4) in the first, intimidated him, and had him in trouble throughout. Jordan, referee.

Hugo Orozco, 129, San Diego, stopped action fighter Art Blackmore, 132, Mesa, at the end of the second of a scheduled four due to a severe laceration over the right eye of Blackmore (9-4). Southpaw Orozco (4-0-1) was in command.

Ruben Becerrada, 138, Venice, and Manuel Davila, 136½, Los Angeles, drew, four. Davila (3-4-1) won the middle rounds. Becerrada (3-0-1) pulled even with a fast finish.

Promoter: Daniel Goossen.
Matchmakers: Larry Goossen & Obdulio Munoz.
Physicians: Robert Karns & Dwight Trautvedder.
Timekeeper: Aaron Koslow.
Announcer: Michael Buffer.
(7-26-88)



Orlin Norris came off the canvas to successfully retain his NABF heavyweight title with a 12-round decision over Dwain Bonds.

▶**INGLEWOOD**—The Forum—Carlos Romero, 122, New York, won a 10-round, split decision over unlucky Jesus Salud, 122, Nanakuli, to advance to the finals of The Forum Superbantamweight Tournament, but most of the crowd and even Romero seemed surprised by the verdict. It was heartbreaking for Salud (24-3) who floored Romero (21-4-1) in the third. But Salud was penalized for grazing the Venezuelan when he was down, and the one point deducted eventually cost the Hawaiian fighter the victory. Scoring: Lou Filippo 95-94 Romero; Gwen Adair 95-93 Salud; John Thomas 95-94 Romero. *The Ring* agreed with Adair. Larry Rozadilla, referee.

Orlin Norris, 214, Campo, successfully retained his NABF heavyweight title with a unanimous decision victory over Dwain Bonds, 216, Quail Valley, 12. Norris (19-2) was down for the first time in his pro career in the fifth, but more from a slip than a punch. Veteran Bonds (13-15-2), rated number 18 by the WBC after knocking out Olympic champion Henry Tillman, lost nearly every other round. Scoring: Vince Delgado 118-111; Dave McCullough 117-111; Chuck Hassett 119-110. Dr. James Jen-Kin, referee.

Filipe Sanchez, 143, Los Angeles, spectacularly kayoed Duane Jones, 143, Van Nuys, in 2:26 of the fourth of a scheduled six. Jones (0-4), a wide open slugger with a glass chin, took the first two rounds. He

was down in the third from a left hook, but in the fourth he had Sanchez (7-2) almost gone only to run into another hook which sat him down and out. Thomas, referee.

David Gonzalez, 125, Pasadena, survived a rocky first round and a cut right eye to win unanimously (all cards 39-37) over Wes Smith, 124, Los Angeles, four. Both Gonzalez (1-1) and Smith (1-4-1) proved to be good fighters in a well-contested bout. Filippo, referee.

Promoter: Jerry Buss.
Matchmaker: Antonio Curtis.
Physicians: Robert Karns & Bernhart Schwartz.
Timekeepers: Aaron Koslow & John Liechty.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
(7-27-88)

▶**REDONDO BEACH**—Aviation Gym—Unbeaten (11-0) Alex Garcia, 227, San Fernando, knocked out Veti Katoa, 214¾, Salt Lake City, in 2:26 of the first of a scheduled eight. Katoa (4-4) was counted out by referee Rudy Jordan.

Jorge Rivera, 145¼, San Diego, outhustled previously unbeaten (9-1) Calvin Meeks, 142, Los Angeles, eight. Rivera (12-3) came in heavy and refused to lose the extra weight. Scoring: Raul Caiz 78-75; Tony Guitron 77-75; Eddie Rodriguez 77-76. Kenny Davis, referee.

Pedro Aguirre, 141¾, Los Angeles, unanimously outpointed Bruce Pearson, 142¼, Los Angeles, over eight. Aguirre (12-2) was too strong and aggressive for Pearson (9-3-1). Scoring: Davis 79-73; Jordan 80-74; Rodriguez 79-74. Caiz, referee.

Lionel Washington, 241¾, Bakersfield, needed just 2:02 of a scheduled six to stop Tyrone Armstrong, 223¼, Burbank. Armstrong (3-1) was taking a beating and unable to fight back when referee Caiz stopped the bout in favor of Washington (7-3).

Comebacking Adan Felix, 148¾, Los Angeles, got back on the winning track by stopping Juvencio Moreno, 147¾, Los Angeles, in 2:29 of the fourth of a scheduled five. Moreno had been down twice from rights, but many thought the stoppage was premature. Felix improved to 10-2-2. Guitron, referee.

Even more controversial was a TKO win for Rahn Porter, 128, Los Angeles, over Allan Santana, 127½, Redondo Beach, in 2:52 of the first of a scheduled four. Porter (1-0-1) floored Santana (2-2-2) twice with rights. The local fighter went down for the third time apparently from a slip and referee Guitron stepped in.

Promoter: John Ellis.
Matchmaker: Obdulio Munoz.
(7-29-88)

▶**SAN BERNARDINO**—Arena—Nigerian Olympian Jerry Okoro, 166, Riverside, continued his quest for a rating with a unanimous decision over hard-trier James Williams, 165, San Diego. Okoro (17-5) was in control, but failed to press his advantage. Williams, now training in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, with James Kinchen, fell to 5-18. Scoring: Raul Caiz 97-93; Vince Delgado 97-93; Lou Filippo 99-91. Lou Moret, referee.

Former NABF featherweight champion Joe Ruelaz, 130, Quail Valley, returned after a 15-month absence to unanimously outpoint ex-IBF title challenger Kelvin Lampkins, 131¾, Los Angeles, over eight. The slick, counterpunching Lampkins (16-18-2) was effective early and had a good sixth, but the pressure fighting of Ruelaz (21-4) paid off in the final two rounds. Scoring: Moret 78-74; Filippo 77-75; Caiz 78-75. Delgado, referee.

A disputed final-round knockdown sealed a six-round, split points win for Gilbert Baptist, 156, San Diego, over Rod Starks, 156½, Huntington Beach. Both boxers were cut, Baptist (8-8) over the left eye in the first, Starks (10-11-3) by the right eye in the second. Scoring: Tony Guitron, 58-56 Starks; Moret 59-54; Delgado 58-55. Caiz, referee.

Kenny Comer, 141, Santa Ana, knocked out normally durable Chris Alvarado, 142½, Phoenix, in 2:45 of the first of a scheduled six. Comer (8-2) floored Alvarado (13-5) early with a picture-perfect right. Another hard right-hand knockdown forced the intervention of referee Filippo.

Sergio Sambada, 128, Los Angeles, won a four-round, majority decision over (1-1) Sal Lopez, 126, Phoenix. Sambada (1-0-1) survived a shaky first, picked up the pace and increasingly dominated. Scoring: Filippo 38-38; Delgado 40-36; Moret 39-37. Guitron, referee.

Local favorite Celio Olivar, 147, Colton, halted Brian Davenport, 145½, El Paso, in 2:10 of the third of a scheduled four. Davenport (10-10-1) was never off his feet, but did not protest when referee Guitron stepped in. Olivar improved his record to 6-2.

Promoter: Joe Column.
Matchmaker: Jerry Ness.
Physicians: Michael Deluca & William Filer.
Timekeeper: Willie Arreola.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
(8-5-88)

DEAN LOHUIS

▶**STOCKTON**—Jesse Flores, 159, Stockton, won a unanimous, but controversial 10-round decision over Gilbert Baptist, 159, San Diego.

Flores, 20-2, won his 16th straight before a hometown crowd that booed the decision. Judges Vern Bybee and Terry Smith each scored 96-95, while Jack Scheberes had it 97-93.

Flores led and threw the harder punches, while the counterpunching Baptist, 6-6-1, showed the faster hands. Baptist's biggest mistake might have been lying on the ropes and countering, though he appeared to get the better of the action with short, crisp punches inside.

In an eight-rounder, Danny Garcia, 125½, Los Angeles, won a unanimous decision over hometowner Eddie Rodriguez, 125. Rodriguez, 16-4, nine KOs, a rangy southpaw, refused to fight on the outside against the shorter Garcia and it cost him. Rudy Ortega and Bybee each scored 78-75 and Scheberes had it 77-75 as Garcia improved to 16-5 with eight KOs.

In a four-rounder, crowd favorite Tony Dominguez, 152, Stockton, stopped Michael Lloyd, 152, Oakland, 40 seconds into the second round. Dominguez, 2-0, two KOs, hurt Lloyd, 4-2, with a left hook early in Round One and had him on queer street the rest of the round. In the second, a lead right staggered Lloyd and Scheberes obliged gesturing ringside officials by stopping the fight.

Ernie Valentine, 150, Stockton, raised his record to 12-5 by stopping an outclassed Joel Gonzalez, 148, Los Angeles, at 1:48 of the third. A looping left floored the wild-swinging Gonzalez. When he went down again seconds later, Smith called a halt. Gonzalez fell to 11-8.

Felipe Martinez, 122, Watsonville, earned a split decision victory over Manuel Prospero, 122, Stockton, in a four-rounder. Bybee and Smith gave it to Martinez, 40-36 and 39-37, respectively, but Ortega saw it for Prospero, 39-37.

Promoter: John Verner.
Timekeeper: Frank Noceti.
Physician: Joe Murphy.
Announcer: Fred Tossi.
(7-1-88)

JIM McCAY

KANSAS

▶**WICHITA**—All-Indian Center—Dwayne Swift, 17-2, 14 KOs, returned to the win column after two disappointing outings under the guidance of Texan Joe Costello. Swift, 142, Oklahoma City, now separated from Costello, appeared rejuvenated for his second-round knockout of Carl Penn, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Swift overwhelmed the hapless Penn from the outset, though fighting nearly seven pounds above his normal weight, which was still five pounds lighter than Penn. He must still prove his mettle against world-class competition, but he is clearly going in the right direction again.

Greg Gorrell, 188, Wichita, became the Central States Boxing Association's second champion by capturing an easy 10-round decision over Anthony Cooks, 190, Okmulgee, for that association's cruiserweight title. Gorrell, down from his usual 195 pounds, appeared sharp and boxed smartly from his southpaw stance. Cooks appeared rugged and willing, but simply couldn't string any combinations together in the direction of the crafty Gorrell. With a couple of strong outings, Gorrell could easily find himself in with a rated fighter.

Mike Hallacy, 168, Wichita, knocked out Greg Ottaway, 164, Stillwater, Oklahoma, in two rounds.

Keheaven Johnson, 157, Tulsa, won a six-round decision over Wichita's Steve Langley, 161.

Verdell Smith, 144, Oklahoma City, took a four-round verdict from Randy Cole, 151, Wichita.

Gary Williamson, 150, Wichita, won a four-round decision over Terry Kliewer, 147, Oklahoma City.

Matchmaker: Tommy Armstrong.
(6-7-88)

▶**HAYS**—Felden Arena—In a bout somehow billed for the "Kansas heavyweight title," hometown hero Eddie Blackwell, 202, cruised to an easy, though controversial, seven-round disqualification win over Aaron Brown, 200, Oklahoma City.

With Blackwell appearing to pull ahead after six uneventful rounds, Brown resorted to pushing and punching, probably out of frustration and exhaustion. After

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receiving a warning for pushing, Brown was quickly disqualified following a repeat offense. Blackwell climbs to a reported 8-2 with four KOs.

Greg Gorrell, 184, Wichita, knocked out Adrian Crawford, 181, El Paso, in four rounds.

Steve Langley, 162, Wichita, knocked out Steve Mayo, 161, Oklahoma City, in the third.

Ron Malek, 165, Wichita, KO'd Stillwater, Oklahoma's Greg Ottaway, 163, in the second.

Matchmaker: Tommy Armstrong.
(7-25-88)

LT. JAMES E. HUTTON

KENTUCKY

▶**LOUISVILLE**—Holiday Inn Ballroom—Promoter Troy Eskridge continued his skein of successful promotions with still another fine night of boxing which was enjoyed by a near-capacity crowd.

The 10-round main event of the six-bout card featured undefeated middleweight "Irish" Dan Morgan, Minneapolis, who entered the fight ranked #19 by the USBA, against tough, 19-6-1, John Featherstone, Omaha, and "Chief John" quickly showed why Custer lost his hair. "Chief John," an American Indian, is one tough customer. For as long as it lasted, he gave his more highly skilled and taller opponent all he wanted.

The first round was a tame feeling out affair, but the second, third and fourth cantos featured solid action, with neither man being able to take charge. In these rounds and throughout the fight for that matter, Morgan fought Featherstone's fight by staying on the inside with his stocky opponent instead of fighting the taller man's outside fight. "Irish" should learn to use his height and reach.

Three more rounds of action followed before Morgan, who takes too many punches — but displayed a granite chin — was finally able to wear down "Chief John." Battered and beaten around the ring, Featherstone was given a standing eight-count properly called by referee Bobby Dixon. The fight appeared over, but Featherstone rallied and charged back at "Irish," beating him around the ring in the remaining seconds of the round.

But that was Featherstone's last hurrah. Morgan continued his relentless pressure in the ninth and Featherstone went down from a half-punch, half-slip which referee Dixon elected to call a knockdown. Morgan stayed on his man and two more standing eight counts followed, the last automatically stopping the contest under the three-knockdown rule. TKO for Morgan at 2:13 of the ninth. His record improves to 15-0, Featherstone's falls to 19-7-1.

In the evening's first contest, Jim "the Sting" Ruff, Louisville, TKO'd perpetual opponent Al Bell, Omaha, via the automatic three-knockdown rule at 2:11 of the first in their scheduled four-round welterweight bout. Ruff's record rises to 4-2. Bell's record is a matter of dispute. Marcus Anderson refereed.

Louisville's "Terrible" Tim Tipton is never in a dull fight and his six-round lightweight matchup with Elkhart, Indiana's Tyrone Williams was no exception. Both fought with intensity in what was a close contest going into the sixth and last stanza when referee Bobby Dixon administered a standing eight count to Tipton. The crowd booed, feeling the eight count was unnecessary, although Tipton was taking hard punches and was bleeding from the eye. As it developed, Dixon's decision decided the fight. All three judges had Tipton ahead going into the sixth. As a result of the standing eight count, Tipton lost the round by a 10-8 margin. This tipped the fight into a draw.

"Terrible Tim" was unhappy about the decision. "Why can't I get a hometown decision in my hometown?" he lamented. "If this keeps up, I'm going to head out to Vegas." Tipton's record now stands 7-1-2.

Omaha middleweight "Insane" Wayne Evans took an insane amount of punishment in losing to Keith Banks of Indianapolis in their four-round contest. Another tough Indian, perpetual opponent Evans was floored in the second after a feeling out first. He was knocked down twice in the third and twice in the fourth, barely surviving the round. Banks looked good in improving his record to 12-3-1. Anderson refereed.

It was short, but exciting. Covington, Ky., middleweight "Rocky" Ray Phillips KO'd John Howard of Indianapolis at 0:20 of the first in their scheduled four-round bout. Both left their corners quickly, met in the center of the ring, and Phillips fired off a tremendous right which caught Howard coming in. Howard hit the canvas with a thump that could be heard in the furthest corners of the hall and moved not an inch as Dixon counted him out. In fact, ring physician Dr. Marc Wheeler had to be called in to revive Howard. Neither fighter's record was announced.

In the bout the crowd most wanted to see, local Gary "The Tiger" Steiger, 191, Louisville, met Mounin Muhammad, 180, Indianapolis, in a scheduled four. Steiger entered to the roar of a standing, cheering audience. He did not disappoint.

Steiger is a crude brawler, totally lacking in skills. His only attributes are his strength and determination. "The Tiger" launched an assault upon Muhammad, but the Indianapolis fighter survived the first. In the second canto he was taking some wild roundhouse punches, but was unhurt when for no apparent reason he gave up. TKO for Steiger at 1:30. Steiger's record improves to 4-1, Muhammad's falls to 4-3. Dixon refereed.

In other local boxing news, Lexington promoter G.L. Van Horn has left the area, although his son, **Darrin "Schoolboy" Van Horn**, will continue to attend the University of Kentucky at Lexington and will fight locally.

The space left by Van Horn will be filled by Marion Hiles. An experienced and well-respected boxing man, Hiles is the former president of the Universal Boxing Association. The personable Hiles hopes to be able to promote one show a month in Lexington.

Promoter: Troy Eskridge.
Referees: Marcus Anderson & Bobby Dixon.
Judges: Roy Kempf, Sonny Griffin & William L. Knopf.
Timekeeper: James Peyton.
Announcer: Don Fowler.
Physician: Marc Wheeler.
Attendance: 900 (est.).
(7-22-88)

▶**LEXINGTON**—Continental Inn—Marion Hiles, former president of the Universal Boxing Association, marked his re-entry into promoting with a successful night of club fights. The main event of the evening was a scheduled six-rounder featuring "The Thunder from Down Under," Paul "Boomer" Murray.

Colorful and personable, Murray has been away from boxing for seven years. During his hiatus from the Sweet Science the Australian has been pearl diving, running a security agency, studying chiropractic healing, and — you guesed it folks — hunting crocodiles. Now based in Lexington and trained by Hiles, the Bluegrass's answer to Crocodile Dundee actually can fight.

Murray, 191, put his 6-0 record in against Hamilton, Ohio's 4-3 Tim McCurty, 176. It wasn't much of a fight. "Boomer" came right after his man at the bell but ran into a number of jabs before getting McCurty on the ropes. One uppercut did the job. McCurty was knocked through the ropes. He did manage to struggle back in and just did beat the count but was in no shape to continue. Referee Sam Floyd (the still active old pro) properly called it off at 1:06 of the 1st.

Keep your eye on Murray. He plans to work down to the light heavyweight division, although he appears very fit at his present weight of 190, and even at the ripe old age of 30 the Aussie might become a factor to be reckoned with.

The other fighter the crowd wanted to see was Louisvillian Gary "The Tiger" Steiger. Steiger, 191, brought a 4-1 record into the scheduled six-round match and has improved both his physical condition and boxing skills since his last outage. To the cheers of his large rooting section, which had made the 80-odd mile journey from Louisville, Steiger devastated out-of-shape, 4-2, Ray Sims, Dayton, Ohio.

Steiger jumped right on his man — the only style he knows — and after some preliminary stalking knocked Sims, 202, down with a tremendous right to the body. Flabby Sims barely beat the count and was felled a few seconds later by a right. He survived the round, to his credit, but was beaten around the ring throughout the second until referee Chuck Sayer properly called it off at 2:10 of that round.

Another Louisville fighter to be watched is 6-0 Eric "Ali" Whitfield. The classy Whitfield displays far greater skills than his short professional record would indicate, but needs better opponents than Hamilton, Ohio's 0-1 Aaron Bromfield.

Bromfield, 140, was outclassed in the first but did at least try to make a fight of it. In the second stanza Whitfield, 134, took over and Bromfield had to hang on to survive. Floyd took a point away after repeated warnings. Finished, Bromfield gave up at 1:27 of the third. Bromfield's record falls to 0-2 and Whitfield continues his march toward prospect status.

In the night's first bout, a four-round matchup, 4-2 Jimmy "The Sting" Ruff, 143, had little rough in him and less sting. He received a hometown draw against the short, stocky Cincinnati slugger, Oscar Washington, 144, who brought a 0-1 record into the contest. *The Ring* saw Washington as the clear winner.

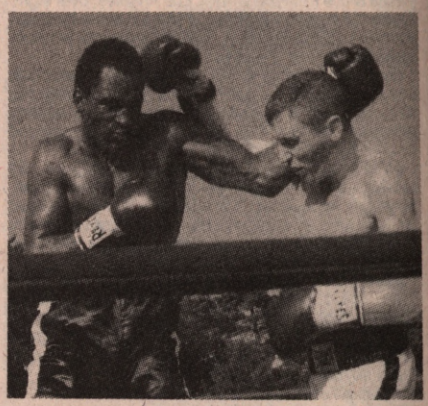
The last match was a mismatch between Danny Thomas, 154, Lexington, and much smaller, 2-0, Jerry Strickland, 140. Scheduled for eight, anyone looking at the disparity in size knew it would never go the distance.

What happened was that Thomas' opponent, Detroit's Barry Morris, took a long look at the formidably built Thomas and simply ran out on the fight. Strickland, who had come down from Cincinnati as a cornerman, bravely filled in as a last-minute replacement. He was knocked down in the first but was able to complete the round. Thomas was not to be denied in the second and courageous Strickland went down under a barrage of punches and was counted out by referee Chuck Sayer at 0:44 of the second. Thomas' record rises to 15-6.

Promoter/Matchmaker: Marion Hiles.
Judges: Larry Mullins, Joel Roitman & Jack Kearns.
Announcer: Frank Cusumano.
Physician: James Ross.
Referees: Chuck Sayer & Sam Floyd.
Attendance: 400 (est.)
(8-5-88)

JOEL ROITMAN

MASSACHUSETTS



Steve Collins (right) trades hooks with Mike Dale en route to unanimous decision victory in Brockton. Collins is now 10-0.

▶**BROCKTON**—Romuva Park—Brockton's first boxing card since 1984 was also the first outdoor card in recent memory. Promoter Al Valenti got weather that was too good — a brutally hot Saturday afternoon that saw the main event cut from 10 to eight rounds by mutual agreement of the fighters' camps. *The Ring* thermometer registered a consistent 98 degrees in what shade could be found, and with no canopy on the ring itself the heat hit 120 on the surface. This made for a strange program, where boxers and fans had their stamina tested, and the biggest winner was the guy with the frozen slush concession.

In the abbreviated main event, Steve Collins, 160, Brockton, outworked Newark's Mike Dale, 166, for a unanimous decision win. According to the Mass. Boxing Commission, Dale hadn't fought for over a year, and ring rust seemed to be a problem for him. A tall, muscular fighter, Dale looked to have the tools to make an interesting foe for the unbeaten Collins, but he never got tracked. A fan of Collins kept shouting "on him like a pit bull, Steve!" and that aptly summed up Collins' style throughout the match. Collins, the Dublin native who won the Irish middleweight crown in March, was not especially sharp, but he consistently got inside of Dale's defenses. Collins' bulling aggression simply thwarted every offensive move Dale made.

"I had to outbox him and outspeed him, because he's a banger and he's dangerous," Collins said later. "A couple times I thought I had him in trouble, but I couldn't bore in and finish him because it's so hot I didn't want to run out of gas." Collins' feet were mute testimony to the torrid conditions, with a blister the size of a half-dollar on each foot.

Referee Ed Fitzgerald saw it 80-72 for Collins, while judges Don O'Neill and John Costello both had it 80-75. *The Ring* card read 80-74. Collins improves to 10-0 (four KOs), while Dale drops to 6-1-1.

As usual, the most exciting preliminary involved Mike

Cappiello, the second cousin of Rocky Marciano. The "Little Rock's" six-rounder against Springfield's Jose Soto began with a bang, several in fact as Soto started fast and furious. Cappiello, 129, West Bridgewater, caught most of Soto's bombs with his chin but kept coming forward. Late in the round Cappiello caught Soto backing away and connected with a four-punch combination. Soto, 134, sagged into a corner, and Cappiello followed up with another multiple-punch barrage that finished him off. The knockout came at 2:30 of the first frame, raising Cappiello to 4-1 (two KOs).

A six was the local debut of the Petronelli Gym's newest member. Drake Dazdi, 175, came to the Brockton gym from the African nation of Malawi via Canada, where he had his first four bouts. Dazdi calmly worked inside the taller Andy Gordon, 179, Waterbury, Ct., and scored consistently. Midway through the second round Gordon fell to his knees, and then when asked if he could go on replied "too hot" with a shake of the head. Dazdi goes to 4-1.

The opening six-rounder was an entertaining slugout. Willie Alicia, 129, Hartford, dropped Gerry Ocampo, 135, Holyoke, in the first round for a brief count. Ocampo took control in the early stages of Round Two, but then Alicia decked him again for a four-count. Alicia took charge after that, and when Ocampo hit the canvas again at 1:50, ref Herb Weissblum called a halt.

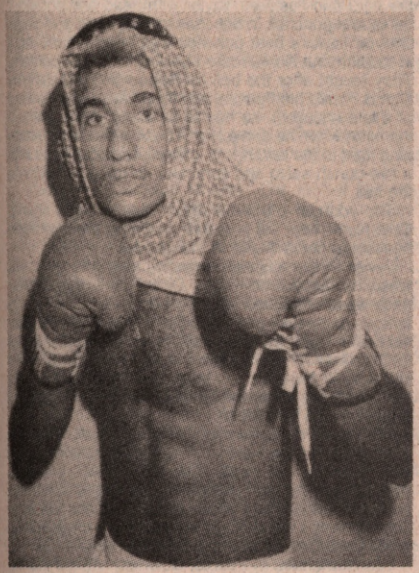
A four-rounder saw southpaw Mike Culbert, 147, Holbrook, dominate Norwalk's Frank Harris, 145, for a lopsided decision win. Culbert survived a late cut over his left eye to push his record to 3-1.

Middleweight contender **Robbie Sims** also boxed a three-round exhibition with veteran Tony Corrado. A portion of the proceeds went to the Brockton YMCA, where Sims works as a counselor.

Attendance: 189.
Gross: $2,900.
Referees: Ed Fitzgerald & Herb Weissblum.
Judges: Don O'Neill & John Costello.
Physicians: Francis Wixted & Jorge Tello.
Promoter: Goodwin A.C.
(7-30-88)

JAY N. MILLER

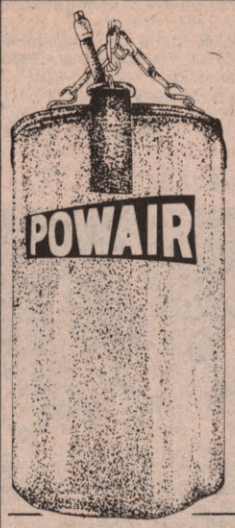
MICHIGAN



Popular Khalil "The Sheik" Khalil stayed unbeaten with a second-round KO over James Dews in Dearborn.

▶**DEARBORN**—Adray Sports Arena—July in the Midwest, and the heat is on, but the drought did not extend to the boxing scene as the competition here fired up the dog days. ABC Promotions weighed in with three shows in three separate venues around the Motor City, including an amateur tournament, as the crosstown rival Kronk team canceled its monthly show in favor of moving operations to the new home of the Pistons in the recently opened suburban Auburn Hills facility called The Palace.

This card featured Fred "The Tank" Adams, 126½, moving to 16-1-1 against a brave, but badly cut



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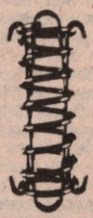

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Rigoberto Rosas, 128½, of Eagle Pass, Texas. Rosas dropped to 10-5 when the referee stepped in in the first round of a scheduled 10.

Local favorite Khalil "The Sheik" Khalil, 135, remained undefeated with a KO at 2:01 of the second over a bewildered James Dews, 135¼, Lake Charles, La., who was making his pro debut. Dews appeared to have some skill but couldn't defend against "The Sheik's" slashing onslaught as Khalil won his third.

Welterweight Darrin "The Mongoose" Morris, 150¾, Detroit, KO'd frustrated Charles Rice, 151¾, Lake Charles, whose antique ring shoes had him slippin' and slidin' like a skater. He asked to change shoes or fight barefooted, but ref Hugh Smithers would have none of that and Morris took him out with body shots at 1:54 of the second.

"Dangerous" Courtney Hooper, 143, Detroit, went to 20-1 with a sweep of the cards in his 10-rounder against Filiberto Rosas, 143, Eagle Pass, Texas. Rosas, 11-6, suffered a cut right eyebrow, but still kept coming in this spirited bout.

Jeff "Sweet Ice" Styers, 135½, Westland, won his sixth without a loss over a wild Albert Jones, 128¾, New Orleans. Styers dropped Jones in the fourth en route to a unanimous decision. Jones, who fell to 2-4, was booed because of his artless ring antics and screaming.

Kelly Croy, 165¼, Taylor, went to 4-1 with a TKO over Rod Jones, 163, New Orleans, who fell to 5-1. The ambidextrous Croy, 39 years old, provides sure confusion for opponents, who never know which way the punches are coming.

Eric Curry, 206, Detroit, came off the floor to knock down Eric Williams, 203, New Orleans, three times in the second round for a TKO at 2:48. Curry, 19-2, said he was knocked down in the first round because he was bending down to tie his shoe! At least he didn't lose his sense of humor.

Promoter: ABC Promotions, Inc.
Matchmakers: Duke Durden & Clarence Adams.
Physicians: M. Scott Ferris & Michael Sherbin.
Referees: Jim Quigley & Hugh Smithers.
Judges: Randy Ericson, Charlene Warner & John Chaulk.
Announcer: Jim Ingram.
Timekeepers: Joe Kollins & Bernie Hitsky.
Attendance: 682.
(7-23-88)

▶**STERLING HEIGHTS**—Premier Center — Matchmaker Duke Durden had to scramble to rescue this card from oblivion as boxers were held up at the Southern border by La Migra, planes were missed and opponents were shuffled.

Olympic champion **Steve "Blues Man" McCrory** whipped on Francisco Segura, San Antonio, Texas, for 10 rounds to up his record to 24-2-1 as Segura fell to 32-15. McCrory was in control at all times, yet the plucky and very brave Segura came to fight and stayed to the last bell. McCrory swept the cards.

Undefeated bantamweight **Renaldo "Little Red" Carter** stayed that way with a TKO over Tony Martinez of San Antonio at 1:57 of the ninth round. Martinez, who surprised by lasting that long, fell to 15-5.

Another unbeaten, Ellery "E.T." Thomas, Detroit, went to 10-0 with a unanimous decision over Jerry Massey of Cincinnati in a welterweight six. Massey, 4-4, was down twice in the third and was knocked out at the final bell by a crashing right cross.

Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson, unbeaten featherweight, had his bout fall out so in stepped the always ready Fred "The Tank" Adams to rescue the six-rounder with an exhibition with no official decision rendered.

Promoter: ABC Promotions, Inc.
Matchmakers: Duke Durden & Peyton Sher.
Physician: Don Kaplan.
Referees: Sam Williams & Bob Fisher.
Judges: Jim Hoomian, Frank Garza & William Miley.
Announcer: Jim Ingram.
Timekeepers: William Hunter & William Hunter Jr.
Attendance: 352.
(7-27-88)

TOM PARUSZKIEWICZ

MINNESOTA

▶**ST. PAUL**—Prom Expo Center—St. Paul heavyweight Rick "Rocky" Sekorski added the name of Purcell "Magic" Davis, Minneapolis via Detroit, into his win column when Davis couldn't answer the bell for the third round due to an elbow injury.

The aggressive Sekorski won the first two rounds by slim margins over the better-boxing Davis. With the victory, Sekorski, 22-8, won the state heavyweight title.

Richie Albrecht, Coon Rapids lightweight, improved to 8-0 when he stopped Mario Rivera of Minneapolis in the third round.

Troy Howland of Duluth won a four-round decision over debuting Derrick Powell of St. Paul in a middleweight bout.

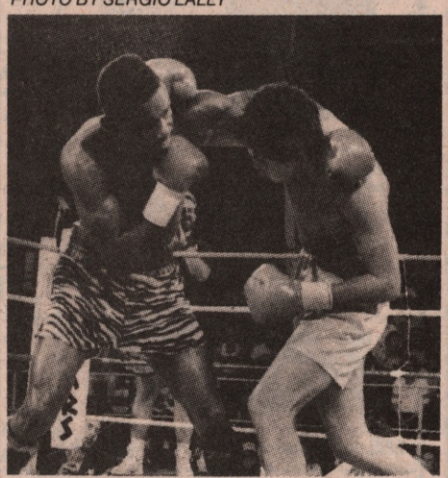
Two other bouts were canceled.
(8-2-88)

GEORGE D. BLAIR

NEVADA

Junior middleweight Terry Norris (right) creates his own victory dance with manager Joe Sayatovich after snapping the undefeated run of Quincy Taylor in Las Vegas.

PHOTO BY SERGIO LALLY



Javier Suazo (right) found the going rough against Young Dick Tiger, but was steady and effective outside to score a unanimous 10-round victory at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

PHOTO BY SERGIO LALLY

▶**LAS VEGAS**—Caesars Palace—**Terry Norris** is currently unranked, but the 21-year-old out of Campo, California will take a big step toward changing that before the year expires when he does something he was scheduled to do last Spring—fight for the California junior middleweight crown.

When Norris ended the undefeated run of Quincy Taylor of Dallas, the transplanted Texan moved front and center for a title shot that got away when he broke his right hand training. Manager Joe Sayatovich and trainer Abel Sanchez had Norris back in the gym almost immediately, awaiting the result of the August 22 bout between Tomas Perez and Kenny Lopez to fill the vacant title.

"We were originally scheduled to fight 'Bumblebee' Al Long around April or May, Terry getting the chance after stopping Clayton Hires (March 28) in two rounds at the Inglewood Forum," Sayatovich explained. "The first week in training he broke his right hand. There was no problem against Taylor, even when he landed shots on top of the head. That's how it happened in the first place."

Not only was the hand sound, Norris came out of the brisk 10-rounder unscathed, raising his credentials to 17-2 with 11 KOs. It was probably the most satisfying victory in Norris' career since the 25-year-old Taylor is a protege of **Sugar Ray Leonard**. Leonard appeared slightly irritated over the loss, but gave Norris high marks for the unanimous victory that didn't appear as close as the judges voted.

"Terry was dictating the tempo of the fight," admitted Leonard. "Quincy was waiting for the bomb and sometimes posing while Terry was counterpunching. It was a strategic fight. It matters how you approach a fight, and Norris was landing punches four to one.

"Terry Norris is a good all-around boxer, counterpuncher and technician," Leonard added. "It was unfortunate for Quincy, but this is a learning process and he should profit by the fight in the future."

Norris, 154, was pleased with his "first real fight in four months," but admitted he was bothered by Taylor's southpaw stance, saying, "I couldn't get outside and Taylor constantly got me with the left hands. I was circling him the wrong way until I settled down, and he hit harder than we thought he did."

Taylor, 155, who had built a 10-0, nine KOs reading, had welts under both eyes and no alibis.

"I'll admit I wasn't punching in combinations like I should have and I was waiting for one big shot at a time," said the loser. "Later, I was getting more anxious than in the early rounds."

Much of the media felt Norris' margin was wider than the official 97-94 scores of Art Lurie and Bill Graham. Lou Tabat saw it 96-94 even after giving Norris the last four rounds.

Norris appeared tense early, but settled down after the third and flustered Taylor with head and shoulder feints and punches in bunches to both head and body. One of Taylor's best punches was an overhand right in the fifth, but Norris roared back with sharp counters. They fought after the bell for Round Six, with referee Carlos Padilla briefly in the middle. If Taylor was thinking of a late knockout, he had to be discouraged early in the ninth when he drove Norris back with a head-snapping right to the jaw. Norris immediately countered with a five-punch salvo and continued to out-gun Taylor to the bell.

The younger brother of NABF heavyweight champ Orlin Norris kept the pressure on during the final three minutes, pinning Taylor in the corners.

Javier Suazo stopped retreating long enough to jab when he discovered Young Dick Tiger's aggressiveness wasn't matched with the punching power of his famous namesake and wound up with a 10-round decision over Tiger, who was making his Las Vegas debut for Top Rank. The 23-year-old Tiger, christened Charles Nwokolo in Nigeria's Ibo tribe, saw his record slip to 24-5, 17 KOs, while the 21-year-old Suazo improved to 20-4-1 with nine KOs.

Boxing out of Hollywood, California, Tiger, 148, was at his best working inside and repeatedly caught Suazo with rights to the head. The taller Suazo, Tucson, Arizona, worked well outside, countering to head and body. The result was much closer than the verdicts, Dave Moretti's tab of 96-94 appearing the most logical, while Cindi Bartin and Art Lurie each had it 97-93.

Joe Hernandez of Pueblo, Colorado learned the full meaning of the word payback on the undercard. Hernandez scored a mild upset June 6 with a four-round decision over Albuquerque's Henry Anaya in what was originally booked as an eight-rounder on the Thomas Hearns-Iran Barkley card. Anaya, 149, improved to 8-1, five KOs, when he hammered Hernandez, also 149, for a knockout at 3:01 of the second round. The end came when Hernandez went down from a salvo and Anaya caught him with a big right before he hit the canvas. Hernandez, 6-3-1, one KO, immediately was taken to Desert Inn Hospital on the order of Dr. Flip Homasky of the Nevada State Athletic Commission. He reportedly suffered a fractured jaw, but no concussion.

Floyd Weaver, 154, Diamond Bar, California, knocked down Alberto Garcia, 156, Albuquerque, three times in the first two rounds, then hung on to win a unanimous, four-round decision. Weaver, 4-1-1, three

KOs, was sent flat on his back by a Garcia right hand in the final round, but Garcia, who dipped to 5-3, four KOs, couldn't catch the tiring Weaver with the clincher.

Lloyd Weaver, 160, Diamond Bar, dropped Rocky Ceberos, 160, Mexicali, Mexico, twice before staggering to a unanimous, four-round decision. Weaver is 4-0, three KOs, Garcia, 5-8 with three KOs.

Eloy Montano, 136, Albuquerque, advanced to 6-0 with one KO with a six-round decision over Marino Canete, 134, Los Angeles, the latter falling to 4-5-1.

Tony Duran, 128, Denver, rushed out at the first bell to hammer Chino Sanchez into a TKO in just 33 seconds. Duran moved to 8-2, three KOs, while Sanchez slipped to 5-2.

(8-12-88)

▶**LAS VEGAS**—Showboat—Fight buffs who argued that matchmaker Mel Greb didn't do Mike Johnson any favors when he paired him with veteran Martin Quiroz are still taking bows for knowledgeability.

Johnson, 141, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was coming back to town fresh from his stunning, ninth-round TKO over previously unbeaten Engels Pedroza June 17 and was a 4-1 favorite over the 146-pound Quiroz. Most consider a tie akin to kissing your sister, but when Johnson and Quiroz wrapped up 10 tough rounds in a draw, it was far more punishing.

Johnson, 21, is 16-1-2 with 11 KOs, while Quiroz, 25, San Jose, picked up his fifth draw against 32 wins and 16 losses, 23 of the victories coming via KO. Fight contracts called for 140 pounds and the state commission fined Quiroz 10 percent of his $2,700 purse for failure to make weight. Johnson earned $3,000.

Quiroz dominated the first four rounds, but Johnson began to change the tempo in the fifth when he shook his Latin rival with a five-punch salvo. Quiroz scored with two searing rights to shake Johnson in the sixth, but the latter regained control with chopping combinations.

Chuck Giampa scored 96-95 Johnson, while Patricia Jarman had the same tab for Quiroz. Paul Smith created the dead heat with a 95-95 reading.

"Quiroz caught my attention with a good overhand right," said Johnson, a student at Washtenaw College. "I think it was the fifth or sixth round. But after the sixth round I could see he was tiring. I was making him miss a lot of shots and when he lunged I was able to counter.

"He held me against the ropes and the referee (Joey Curtis) never did anything about it," Johnson added. "Quiroz kept trying to trick me so he could land that one big punch. I felt I won the fight, but I'm not going to argue with the judges."

Quiroz, speaking through manager/trainer Renato Garcia, said he "didn't know how they could call it a draw because I landed the bigger punches. I feel I won, but I'll say this, though . . . Johnson can take a big punch."

Undefeated Michael Moorer, 176, out of Detroit's Kronk Gym, moved to his seventh straight knockout victory when Terrance Walker, 176, Houston, was unable to answer the bell for the fifth round of a scheduled 10. The only knockdown came when Walker, 7-9-1, seven KOs, took a vicious left hook just before the end of the first round. He managed to wobble up at referee Tony Gibson's count of eight.

Jeff Mayweather, 132½, Las Vegas, and Pedro Moreno, 132½, Los Angeles, boxed to a four-round draw.

Kevin Grantham, Las Vegas, scored his fifth win and third stoppage when Kenny Johnson, 131, Las Vegas, went out at 52 seconds of the second of a scheduled four. Johnson is 0-3.

David Acosta, 176, Las Vegas, scored a close, but unanimous decision over Adrian Riggs, 170, Las Vegas, in a four. Acosta is 7-2, while Riggs falls to 0-4.

(8-6-88)

▶**LAS VEGAS**—Caesars Palace—**Matthew Hilton** didn't fancy being idle since last October, but his return showed his punching power hasn't been impaired.

Hilton, 22, IBF junior middleweight titleholder from Montreal, welcomed the game, but outclassed Paul Whittaker of New Orleans to the big time with a four-round TKO at Caesars' Sports Pavilion. The scheduled 10-round, non-title assignment was the last tuneup for Hilton before he makes a mandatory defense of his 154-pound belt against Philadelphia's Robert Hines. Making his first Vegas appearance since November, 1986 when he chilled Frankie Owens in two rounds, Hilton simply had too many guns for the 24-year-old Whittaker as he raised his credentials to 29-0 with 24 KOs with a devastating display of body punching.

Whittaker, under the tutelage of Les Bonano, whose developed talents include John Duplessis and Melvin Paul, saw his ledger dip to 22-2 with 17 KOs.

Hilton, managed and trained by his father, Davey Hilton, a former Canadian champion, soared to 190 pounds after stopping Jack Callahan in two rounds in Atlantic City.

"I was taking a break in training and eating the wrong foods, but I learned a big lesson after working as hard as I did to take that weight off," said Hilton, who matched Whittaker's 163 pounds. "I didn't consider this fight as a tuneup because Whittaker knew he was fighting a world champion and what an upset win would do for him. I wasn't going to take any chances."

Hilton, one of four fighting brothers, immediately took charge and by the end of the second round Whittaker was unable to escape those double hooks to the body. Whittaker, billed as "The Wicked One," was bleeding from the nose by the end of the second and was checked in his corner by Dr. Flip Homasky. Moving ever forward, Hilton dropped Whittaker for the first time in Round Three with a double right hook to the body. Whittaker rose on wobbly legs only to be met with a salvo of punches to head and body. The Louisiana boxer was back on the canvas from a hook to the torso, but beat the count just before the bell.

As the fourth started, Hilton ran out and jolted Whittaker with a vicious, chopping right to the jaw. It came 50 seconds into the round, and Whittaker dropped face down to the canvas. Bonano quickly signaled to referee Richard Steele to stop the fight.

"I take my hat off to Whittaker because he took all my punches and hung right in there," said Hilton. "Now I'll turn my attention to Robert Hines and it's another fight I'm not taking lightly. When I started out, the most important thing was being world champion. That's all I ever thought about. The money wasn't that important, but now that I have the title I'll keep it and hope to make some serious money before moving up to the 160-pounders. Down the road, maybe there's **Donald Curry**."

Whittaker, recapping through bruised lips, had no alibis.

"Hilton surprised me the way he could hit, although I knew he had a reputation as a puncher," said the loser. "I went down from body shots but wasn't really hurt. I shouldn't have shown him as much respect as I did."

In a light heavyweight bout scheduled for 10 rounds, **Joe Lasisi**, a native of Lagos, Nigeria, now based in Las Vegas, wore down Mike Sedillo, 176, Los Angeles, for a TKO victory when the latter failed to come out for the ninth round. Lasisi improved to 18-0 with 17 KOs, while Sedillo dropped to 21-6, 12 KOs. Lasisi led on all cards at the end.

Troy Weaver, 166, Diamond Bar, California, knocked down John Moore, 164, Evansville, Indiana, three times in the first round for a TKO win at 1:55. Weaver, who raised his record to 5-1, five KOs, is one of the triplet brothers of former WBA heavyweight titleholder **Mike Weaver**.

Joe Gatti, 155, Montreal, moved to 4-0, three KOs, when he stopped Cal Christensen, 155, Phoenix, at 47 seconds of the second round. Christensen fell to 2-1, one KO, in the scheduled four.

David Collet, 153, Metarie, Louisiana, rose to three KO victories, erasing Virgil Green, 155, Vallejo, California, at 25 seconds of the third round. Green is 3-4.

Ricky Berros, 167, Las Vegas, won a unanimous, four-round decision over David Acosta, 170, El Paso, in the walkout. Berros is 2-1, Acosta, 6-2.

Promoter: Top Rank.

TV: ESPN.

(7-29-88)

JACK WELSH

NEW JERSEY

▶**ATLANTIC CITY**—Resorts International—It wasn't supposed to be the kind of match upon which careers are made or broken, but it's beginning to look as if the career of **John Wesley Meekins**, 142, NYC, can no longer be considered the second coming of Sugar Ray Robinson.

Yes, Meekins won by TKO at 1:09 of the third round of a scheduled 10 against unschooled southpaw Mohammad Kawoya, 140¾, NYC via Uganda, but it sure wasn't pretty — or very convincing. Kawoya, stopped in his previous two outings and a non-winner since 1986, was touted as a better-than-average puncher, but one who cut easily.

Meekins dominated Round One with nice-and-easy combinations, and Round Two was more of the same. Meekins was landing at will and dropped Kawoya with a series of punches capped by a left hook. Though he beat the count, Mohammad was staggered a couple more times and had trouble locating his corner at the bell.

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In the third, Kawoya shocked the crowd by putting Meekins down with a sharp right hook in the midst of a wild exchange. Meekins bounced up quickly and returned the favor with a right of his own. Up at the count of two, Kawoya was still in trouble. Meekins rushed him into the ropes where referee Paul Venti made up his mind to stop the fight. As Venti sliced between the boxers, Kawoya let fly with a right which connected flush and twisted Meekins to the canvas.

Though Kawoya thought he'd won by a kayo, it was not to be. Commissioner Larry Hazzard backed Venti's call and the TKO victory for the floored Meekins stood. It was a bad break for Kawoya and another in the recent rash of strange endings infecting Atlantic City boxing. A rematch has been tentatively scheduled. The dubious win upped Meekins' log to 19-1-2 with 15 KOs. Kawoya slipped to 11-4 with five KOs.

In another scheduled 10, Johnny "Dancin' Machine"

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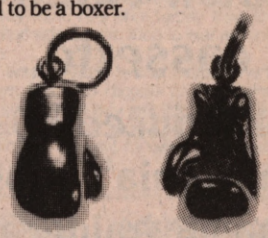

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Carter, 126¾, Phila., had it too easy too soon when he rattled Edward "Pee Wee" Parker, 124¾, Houston, early in the opening round. Rather than dance, Carter tried for a quick win and soon found himself in punching range of the recovered Parker.

In the second, Carter was put on the seat of his pants by a Parker left hook which landed high on his head. Parker's assault continued into the next round and the defenseless Carter was rescued by referee Ted Pick at 0:55 of the third. Parker raised his record to 13-2-1 with six KOs, while the shopworn Carter skidded to 33-7 with 20 KOs.

Oscar Ponce, 141½, Argentina via Silver Springs, MD, did his Louis Firpo imitation to bull spindly Curtis Adams, 142½, Phila., all around the ring, clearly winning a unanimous six-round decision by scores of 59-54 (twice) and 59-55. Ponce upped his record to 6-0 with two KOs, while Adams fell to 8-8-1 with three KOs.

Davey Franco, 136, Plainfield, NJ, boxed nicely, but not often enough against harder-punching Randy Kearse, 136, NYC. The result was a split draw over six rounds. The good action bout was scored 57-57 by Al DeVito, while John Poturaj saw it 58-55 for Kearse. Vinnie Rainone cast a 58-56 vote for Franco. Referee, Pick.

In another pleasing bout, busier Jesus Cruz, 130, Paterson, NJ, survived a second-round knockdown to pull out a four-round majority decision over Bruce Becker, 132, Brigantine, NJ. Referee, Venti.

Promoter: Top Rank & Frank Gelb.
Matchmaker: Ron Katz & Teddy Brenner.
Television: ESPN.
(8-5-88)

▶**ATLANTIC CITY**—Resorts International—Perennial fringe contender **Doug "The Cobra" DeWitt**, 163¼, Yonkers, NY, solidified his shot at world middleweight champion **Sumbu Kalambay** by scoring a KO over Alberto Gonzalez, 161¼, Carson City, NV, at 2:53 of the sixth round of a scheduled 10.

DeWitt took every round with a blistering body attack that saw numerous left hooks land on (or below) the belt. DeWitt constantly punched his opponent into the ropes, and while Gonzalez did manage to land some stinging right hands, he never had the time to unleash any meaningful combinations. DeWitt set a torrid pace and his strength-draining body attack ruled the day.

The end came with Gonzalez on the ropes again, where DeWitt finished him with a hook to the side. The loser went down in pain and resignation and referee Steve Smoger counted him out.

DeWitt upped his slate to 30-5-4 with 18 KOs, while late sub Gonzalez dipped to 18-5-2 with 15 KOs.

Georgie "Go Go" Navarro, 128, Vineland, NJ, came back from a 10-month layoff to grab a 10-round split decision over Edward "Pee Wee" Parker, 128, Houston.

Navarro, who had to take time off because of a bad cut suffered in his controversial loss to **Hector Lopez**, took three rounds to get his act back together. But once he found his rhythm, Navarro used his quickness and stinging counters to pull away for an easy win. Judges Eugene Grant and Frank Cairo had Navarro ahead 97-93 and 96-94, respectively. But judge Phil Newman came up with an off-the-wall 96-95 for Parker. *The Ring* gave Navarro the last seven rounds for a 97-93 score. The winner raised his record to 17-1 with five KOs, while Parker slipped a bit to 13-3-1 with six KOs. Referee, Frank Cappuccino.

Garing Lane, Hilcrest Heights, MD, a blob-like 266, gave it his all to cop a four-round majority decision over reluctant Mike Robinson, 210, Troy, NY. Robinson was down in the second from a left-right. Referee, Cappuccino. Lane upped his log to 3-3-1, while Robinson dropped to 2-2-1.

Broad-shouldered Wendell Everett, 181¾, Freehold, NJ, spoiled the pro debut of Joe Intravia, 180¾, Bethpage, NY, by taking control in Round Two and tattooing his man the rest of the way to take a unanimous four-round nod.

Promoter: Top Rank & Frank Gelb.
Matchmaker: Ron Katz & Teddy Brenner.
Timekeeper: Roosevelt Gilbert.
Television: ESPN.
(8-19-88)

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NEW YORK

▶**NEW YORK CITY**—Felt Forum—**Michael Dokes** continues to grow lean and mean on a diet of stiffs, the latest being Manuel DeAlmeida (218, Sao Paulo, Brazil), whom Dokes dispatched after four rounds of the scheduled 10. Dokes (227, Miami Beach) had little trouble with DeAlmeida, a roundhouse-throwing palooka whose punches turned out to be less intimidating than they looked. The Brasileiro did his best, but Dokes started walking right through him after the first two rounds, and DeAlmeida simply couldn't, or wouldn't, answer the bell for Round Five. Dokes' record improves to 35-1-2, 22 kayoes; DeAlmeida is 17-7-2, four kayoes. Arthur Mercante, Sr. refereed.

In a dull scheduled 10, light heavy prospect Chris Reid (173, Little Silver, N.J.) looked as unimpressive as a man can while scoring a third-round TKO, which he accomplished against one Carlos Santistevan (176, Lincoln, Neb.). Santistevan, who now has a 12-3, six kayoes record, simply took a good old-fashioned pounding from Reid, but Reid couldn't come close to actually putting his man away. Ref Carl Schroeder finally stopped it at 2:32 of the third, presumably on the grounds of futility. Reid is now 20-1-2, 19 kayoes.

Veteran Jose Vidal (130, The Bronx) stopped deadgame Troy Davis (130, Bay City, Mich.) at 2:26 of the fifth in a scheduled 10. A sharp right cross decked Davis in the second; another such punch had him on the ropes where he ducked and dodged and fought back well. But Vidal beat him up badly in the fourth, and a series of massive rights put the Michigander down midway through the fifth. He arose and tried to fight back, but ref Nic Drake waved it over a few seconds later. Vidal's record is now 27-7-2, 17 kayoes; Davis is 10-15-1, five kayoes.

Southpaw Quincy Taylor (159½, Dallas) scored his 10th victory in as many bouts, his ninth by kayo, when Tim Knight (163, Louisville, Ky.) went bye-bye at 0:45 of the second, scheduled eight. A left hook decked Knight for a count of seven early in the first, and he was gunshy from then on; a left-right combination found him early in the second and he was down for several minutes. He's now 8-9, two kayoes. Schroeder refereed.

Elvis Perez (140, Newark, N.J.) impressed with a one-round stoppage of Pedro Torres (142½, New York City) in a scheduled eight. Perez, now 17-1 with 15 kayoes, went right-hand crazy, landing all of them and putting the brave but weak-jawed Torres on the floor three times. Ref Drake stopped it at 2:52, leaving Torres with a record of 16-11-1, eight kayoes.

After a few seconds of fiddling in the opening round of a scheduled four, debuting Leo Vargas (120½, Harlem) landed a quick-as-glycerine combination that rendered Angel Jimenez (124½, Perth Amboy, N.J.) unconscious for several minutes. Jimenez, who's now 0-2, ought to stay 0-2. The official time was 0:51 of the first round. Harry Smith refereed.

In another scheduled four, Jose Sanchez debuted with a first-round kayo of Patrick Medy, who was also making his first start. Sanchez (153½, The Bronx) landed a long right midway through the round that put Medy (155½, Jersey City) flat on his back, and ref Smith didn't bother to count. The official time was 1:40.

Announcer: Ed Derian.
Timekeeper: Cecilio Pedraja.
Promoter: Madison Square Garden Boxing.
Matchmaker: Bob Goodman.
(7-28-88)

▶**NEW YORK CITY**—Felt Forum—Top lightweight **Edwin Rosario** maintained his high standing in the ratings with an easy three-round kayo over Rafel Gandarilla in the scheduled 10-round main event. Rosario (138, San Juan) languidly outjabbed his man for two rounds, then decked the non-resistant Gandarilla (139, Harlingen, Texas) with a quick combination early in the third. Ref Al LoBianco stopped counting at five. Rosario is now 29-3, 25 kayoes; Gandarilla is 62-29-3 (at least), 30 kayoes.

In a pretty good scheduled 10, **Tunde Foster** (134, Brooklyn) ran his log to 18-0-1, 13 kayoes, when Juan Nunez (134, El Paso, Texas) retired after the sixth. It was a hard-fought battle while it lasted, with Foster having the upper hand but the obscure Nunez not giving an inch. The Texan began to slow down, though, after the fourth, and Foster kept pouring on the offense. Foster sank to his knees from a low blow in the sixth, and when he came up, he retaliated with a flagrant nut-shot of his own. The crowd and ref Arthur Mercante Jr., both chastised Foster for his lack of sportsmanship, but the blow had its desired effect. Nunez was incapacitated and Foster began to tee off. Nunez was wandering at the bell, and the decision to retire him was correct. He's now 10-7, nine kayoes.

Popular Philadelphian Myron Taylor (129) stopped Domenico Monaco (126¾, Brooklyn) at 2:47 of the seventh in a scheduled 10. Monaco fought aggressively but was outslugged and outboxed. He sustained a severe cut over the left eye in Round Five, and by the seventh Taylor was wiping the floor with him. Ref Oscar Perez stopped matters with Monaco still not badly injured but clearly defeated. Taylor's record goes to 24-7-2, 13 kayoes; Monaco's is 27-10-2, 15 kayoes.

Donovan Boucher (148, Toronto) stopped Ali Salaam between the first and second rounds of a scheduled 10. Salaam was down twice in the first heat, once for a count of seven from a right hand, then for eight by a long left hook. The ringside physician advised ref Oscar Perez not to let Salaam take any more. Boucher's record is 18-1, nine kayoes; Salaam's stands at 10-6, five kayoes.

Art Tucker (210, Newark, N.J.) scored another of his patented quick kayoes, hitting Andre Crowder for 10 at 1:22 of the opening round, scheduled eight. Crowder (191, Toledo, Ohio) came to fight, but a leaping right knocked him cold before he'd had a chance to show anything. Tucker stayed unbeaten at 12-0-1, 10 kayoes; Crowder went to 6-7-1, two kayoes. Lo Bianco refereed.

A good action fight scheduled for eight saw Frank D'Orio (136, Somerville, Mass.) stop Jerry Smith (139, Birmingham, Ala.) after three rounds. Smith had fought creditably throughout, but a big right hand put him down at the end of the third, and he seemed to be down for at least 12 seconds, although ref Sammy Viruet appeared to be counting rather slowly and only got to nine. Smith was not ready to come out for the fourth, though, so the point became academic.

Louis Howard (149½, Tyler, Texas) improved to 16-1, 14 kayoes, with a unanimous eight-round decision over Genaro Castro (153, The Bronx), who's now 4-3. Howard jabbed well and hurt the game Castro several times, but seemed an inept finisher for a man with so many kayoes on his record. Judge Harold Lederman scored it 8-0, judge Billy Costello 6-2, and judge Georgie Colon, 7-1, all for Howard; *The Ring* also had it 7-1 Howard. Perez refereed.

A pretty good novice slugfest saw Roosevelt Walker (152, Newark, N.J.) go to 4-0, one kayo, with a unanimous four-round win over Ricardo Smith (158, Syracuse, N.Y.). Walker showed a good hard overhand right; one of these dropped Smith for a short count in the last round, although it appeared to be a rabbit punch. Smith, whose record is 2-2, is too slow-moving. Judges Lederman and George DeGabriel had Walker up 3-1; judge Colon called it 4-0; *The Ring* liked Walker by 2-1-1.

Viruet refereed.

Hit-and-miss middleweight Terminator Coles (165, The Bronx) hit one, beating up Rahim Muhammad (161, Brooklyn) and stopping him at 2:59 of the first in a scheduled four. Muhammad, a flailer, went down in obvious distress just before the bell, and ref Viruet lost no time in stopping it. Coles came out with a 3-2, one kayo record; Muhammad's 2-3, one kayo.

Attendance: 1,500 (est.).
Announcer: Ed Derian.
Timekeeper: Tom Kenville.
Promoter: Madison Square Garden Boxing.
Matchmaker: Bob Goodman.
(8-11-88)

JOSEPH D'O'BRIAN

OKLAHOMA

▶**OKLAHOMA CITY**—Central Plaza—Veteran heavyweight **Bernardo Mercado** of Colombia floored 6-6, 275-pound Wes Smith, Louisville, six times before knocking him out at 2:48 of the fourth round of a scheduled 10.

There wasn't much action in the first three rounds, but Mercado, who weighed 220, made up for that in the fourth, dropping Smith with almost every punch he landed.

On the undercard, Minneapolis light heavyweight "Irish" Dan Morgan knocked out Brad Billings of Little Rock, Arkansas in the fourth round.

Promoter: Sean Gibbons.
(8-2-88)

PENNSYLVANIA

▶**PHILADELPHIA**—Blue Horizon—**Tony Thornton** returned from a hiatus caused by recurrent cuts, which afforded the opportunity to get married. Promoter Russell Peltz favored the union with a late wedding gift, one which would satisfy the "something old" requirement, in opponent Jerry Holley. Though once an accomplished spoiler, Marvin Hagler's chief sparmate had fought only once in the last two-and-a-half years and that over a year ago, while compiling an 18-13 log. Thornton, 164, Glassboro, NJ, did a number on him, skilfully herding Holley, 163½, Brockton, into the ropes. Trying to fight his way off the strands in the third, Jerry lowered his hands and walked right into Tony's power alley. A thunderous right dropped him straight down like he'd been hung, but not before a left hook sealed his doom in passing. The torment was over at 1:48, but Jerry remained propped against the turnbuckle, motionless, for several more anxious minutes. The winner rose to 19-1-1, with his 17th KO. Ref, Rudy Battle.

Andre "Thee" Prophet, 182, N. Phila, KO'd reluctant Melvin Ricks, 181, Lorain, OH, at 2:58 of the third, scheduled eight. When Melvin finally tried to fight, he missed a wild right and lunged into Andre's trademark right from the hip. The unbeaten Prophet won his 12th with 10 KOs. Ref, George Hill.

In the best bout of the night, streaking Mike Brown, 141, N. Phila., ended up on the high end of the see-saw, as he TKO'd Joe Alexander, 140, W. Phila., at 1:57 of the eighth and final round. Brown suffered a flash knockdown in the first, which spurred Alexander into a rally. The two traded back and forth evenly into the seventh with one's success only redoubling the other's efforts. Both tiring, they each tried to get it over with in the seventh with Brown on a roll as the dust cleared. Mike carried the advantage into the final session, rocking Joe into the ropes with a nifty mix of punches that prompted Battle to call it off. Alexander didn't consider himself finished, and made a determined effort to get away from the referee and resume the fray. Brown became 9-14-2 and Alexander 12-11-1.

In a no-frills battle, Rob Jenkins, 166½, N. Phila., showed better hands in tearing up James Barham, 166½, W. Phila., through the early going. But the determined Barham fought back until he had an exhausted Jenkins ready to fall in the fifth before Rob regrouped to hold onto a majority win in six. The unbeaten Jenkins won his seventh, while James fell to 7-8. Ref, Hill.

Chris Organtini, 136½, Norristown, pounded away on a cooperative William Reid, 139, Balto., before finally tucking him away at 1:33 of the fifth in a scheduled six. Reid mixed in lively, but crude action until worn out and stopped on his feet. Ref, Battle.

Tony Green, 127, W. Phila., showed slightly more purpose to take a split verdict over jiving Donnie Parker, 128½, Baltimore, in a listless four. Ref, Hill.

Frankie Randall, 144, Morristown, Tenn., raised his record to 34-2-1 with a senseless mismatch against prelim kid Tony Rorie, 146, Wallingford, CT. Rorie was out on his feet from a right, then down and gone from a left hook at 1:30 of the second, scheduled eight. He became 4-5. Ref, Hill.

Promoter: Peltz Boxing Promotions.
Matchmaker: J. Russell Peltz.
Attendance: 846, $9,600.
TV: USA Network.
Judges: Joe O'Neil, Al Morris, & Manny Altman.
Timekeeper: Tony Stenza.
Announcer: Hank Kropinski.
(7-28-88)

▶**PHILADELPHIA**—Northeast National Guard Armory—Promoter Russell Peltz opened a "branch office" to provide neighborhood access for the fans of Anthony Boyle and did a land-office business. But the struggle Anthony had with Juan Muriel left a question. Was the matchmaking surprisingly ungenerous, or was it a matter of the hero's performance? Boyle, 127½, Kensington, emerged with a unanimous win over Muriel, 127½, NYC, after a bitterly contested 10. Muriel came in with a record of losing close calls after giving young prospects a rough night in the trenches. Boyle wasn't up to anything different. He was uncomfortably open to Juan's swiping overhand rights and jolted a number of times. When he got his jab working, Anthony was able to keep the stocky Puerto Rican at bay. A thudding hook left Muriel tottering at the bell ending the fourth.

But the visitor came out so fired up for the fifth, the ice bag was still in his trunks. A spirited attack ended in a left hook that shook Boyle. Any plans Anthony had for a controlled pace went up in the whirlwind and he had to scramble through the rest of the fight taking advantage of Juan's big misses. Action was in earnest, but often messy. Boyle grabbed and tugged with Muriel to keep him from fighting inside. While the local definitely outfought the visitor, it was by no means easy or one-sided. But the judges did their all-too-typically miserable job, making it look on paper like a classic "homer." Carol Polis had 49-42, Paul Harris 49-41 and Ozzie Sadler 48-42. *Both* deserved a better appreciation of their work than this! The winner rose to 15-0-1. Rudy Battle refereed.

In the co-feature 10, **Robert Hines** "tuned up" for his forthcoming Hilton title shot against a slippery spoiler not apt to do much to prepare him for the rugged, straight-ahead Matthew. Hines, 158¾, N. Phila., belabored and stopped Jose Bezerra DeLima, 154¾, Ceara, Brazil, at 2:30 of the third of a scheduled 10. Lefty Hines scored a flukey knockdown at the outset when a right cuffed the confused Brazilian behind the head. It was all downhill for DeLima from there. No amount of swivel-hipped action could corkscrew him away from the mounting pressure until ref Joe O'Neil rescued him, badly cut, in his own corner. Hines fattened his record to 24-1-1.

Brian McGinley, 150, Kensington, scored a repeat win, via unanimous verdict, over Bill Robinson, 149, Bklyn., eight. McGinley survived some choppy seas in a furious second to stagger Robinson at the bell as both willingly engaged well into the rest. But after the invader faded in the third, the local coasted and let him back into the fight. The later rounds fizzled, as the winner went 15-5-2. Ref, Battle.

Nate Miller, 188, Germantown, made a tough opponent look easy as he chopped up and stopped Mike Fisher, 177½, Bloomfield, NJ, after five of a scheduled eight. The returning Fisher didn't look in the best of shape and when a crude, physical brawler lacks condition, he doesn't have much else with which to protect himself. Still, Miller was able to put his punches underneath well to open up the crablike Fisher to a fearsome drubbing. After a final, desperation rally failed, Mike remained in his corner. The unbeaten Nate won his 13th, while Fisher fell to 20-10. Ref, O'Neil.

Mistakenly thought to be abolished by better commission policing, the undercard was "lowlighted" by the return of the "Stiff Parade." Willie Rivera, 138½, N. Phila., a solid puncher capable of equally solid opposition, was fed a disgraceful setup in Maurice Young, 141, N. Phila. An active diver in the less-regulated past, Young was returning under the alias "Maurice Davis" to avoid detection. That didn't hide his pathetic lack of ability, however, as he twice folded meekly and was KO'd at 1:26 of the first, scheduled four. The unbeaten Willie "won" his fourth, while the loser went to something like 0-?. Ref, Battle.

That one was Ali-Frazier III compared to the TKO scored by Jose Avila, 142½, NYC, over one "Tyrone Watson", 142, N. Phila., in just 0:21 of a scheduled four. "Watson" took a single left hook to the ribs and went into a staggering act so bad he would have been hooked off the stage of a first-grade class play. Battle gave it a "thumbs down."

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By contrast, a trialhorse, a guy who can't fight much but tries, was served to Dave Tiberi, and gave a solid effort. Tiberi, 162, New Castle, Del., scored a unanimous win over Terry Young, 163½, Brooklyn, six, but couldn't dent him, try as he might. Ref, O'Neil.

Promoter: Peltz Boxing Promotions.
Matchmaker: J. Russell Peltz.
Attendance: 1,484, $23,010.
Timekeeper: Tony Stenza.
Announcer: Hank Kropinski.
(8-16-88)

J.R. JOWETT

TENNESSEE

▶**MEMPHIS**—Omni-New Daisy Theatre—Knox Brown, 162, Memphis, stopped Ronnie Yoe, 158, Tupelo, Mississippi, at 2:55 of the fifth round of the scheduled 10-round main event.

Brown set the pace in the first round, landing with numerous combinations to the head. In the next three rounds the two traded blows, each connecting with his best shots. But in Round Five, Brown found Yoe's weak spot—the body—and one shot forced Yoe to double over. Yoe asked referee Jim Kidd to rescue him, which he did.

"His head was so hard it was actually hurting my hands," Brown told Ron Higgins of *The Commercial Appeal*. "It's always that way with fighters who are bald. I could tell his body was a little soft. I could feel my body shots sinking. He was exhaling pretty hard when I hit him with those."

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Covington's Rob Williamson, 137, pounded out a six-round decision over Richard Moore, 140, of Meridian, Mississippi, taking scores of 58-56 and 59-57 (twice).

Jackson's Obie Beard, 140, stopped Bobby Brown, 137, of Evansville, Indiana, on cuts at the end of the third round of a scheduled six to improve his record to 2-0. Beard was down in the second, but stormed back to batter Brown, who also lost to Beard July 5.

Obie's brother, Aubrey, 156, made his pro debut, banging out a four-round, unanimous decision over Willow Thomas, 151, of Meridian.

Promoter: Tom Harmon/Mid South Boxing, Inc.
Matchmaker: Red Fortner.
Announcer: Gilbert Beam.
Judges: Mark Acheson, Sam Garland, James Perkins, Haywood Watts & Sonny Hanks.
Referees: Jim Kidd & Sam Garland.
Timekeeper: Rod Cardone.
Physician: Lealand Atkins.
Attendance: 600 (est.).
(8-2-88)

MICHAEL GLENN

TEXAS

▶**CORPUS CHRISTI**—Delio Palacios, 132½, won a unanimous, 10-round decision over David Johnson, 133½, in the 10-round main event of a three-bout card.

The other two bouts were scheduled for four rounds each.

Arthur Trevino, 146, stopped Santos Randazzo, 148½, at 2:11 of the second round.

Danny Trevino, 161, knocked out Ernesto Albanil, 164½, at 1:55 of the first.

Promoter: Main Events.
Physician: Ixco Garcia.
Referees: Jesse Garza & Dennis Collins.
Timekeeper: Rivera.
Judges: John Whitley & Santos Ronje.
(7-27-88)

▶**FORT WORTH**—Gorman's Gym—The headliner of this club show was a six-round bout between William Strickland, 172, and David Maldonado, 162, Mexico, won by Strickland at 2:43 of the second round.

Five four-rounders filled out the bill.

Scott Johnson, 149½, knocked out Steve Nickson, 149¼, New Mexico, in 51 seconds.

Brian Dorsey, 138½, knocked out Jesus Paz, 136¼, in 2:31.

Ruben Nevarez, 120, knocked out Robert Garza, 120½, in the first.

Melvin Young, 203, knocked out Luis Mora, 234, in 1:50.

Jesse Henry, 183½, won a unanimous decision over David Bates, 183½.

Promoter: Gorman Super Pro.
Physician: Harold Shilling.
Referees: Dick Cole & Jerry McKinzie.
Timekeepers: Ballew & Ballew.
Judges: Rocco DiSario, Jack Woodruff & Ken Fewell.
(7-29-88)

▶**HOUSTON**—Las Americas—Ramiro Pedro Adames, 122, stopped Mexico's Diego Briones Herrera, 121½, at 1:59 of the second round of a scheduled 10.

In another 10, Martin Ortegon, 125½, stopped Mexico's Jose Favila, 128, at 2:04 of the fifth.

Mexico's Efrain Flores, 144, was awarded a technical decision at 2:56 of the second round of a scheduled eight against Joe Edens, 144.

Elton Dublin, 174, won a split, six-round decision over Grady Smith, 176.

David Moreno, 121½, won a split, six-round decision over Albert Rendon, 120½.

Gregg Brown, 146, knocked out Vincent Steel, 146, at 2:45 of the third of a scheduled four.

Promoter: David Marquez.
Physician: Jorge Guerrero.
Referees: Chris Jordan & Barry Yeates.
Timekeepers: Giffrow & Barba.
Judges: Edwin Horn, Charles Stansil & Ronnie Ralston.
(7-31-88)

▶**PASADENA**—A scheduled 12 ended in the fourth round, **Steve Cruz,** 125¼, knocking out Fred Adams, 124¾.

Troy Dorsey, 127¼, knocked out Albert Santana, 127¾, in the first round of a scheduled six.

The remainder of the bouts were scheduled for four rounds each.

Steve Johnson, 147¼, stopped Andrew Banks, 148¼, in the second round.

Darriel Collins, 140½, made his pro debut with a three-round TKO over Manuel Estrada, 138½.

Ruben Nevarez, 118½, stopped Jesse Alviar, 116¾, in three.
(8-12-88)

▶**CORPUS CHRISTI**—Roland Gomez, 118, won a unanimous, 10-round decision over Mike Ayala, 118.

Ricky Alvarez, 129, won by majority decision over Darren McGrew, 129½, after eight rounds.

Four four-rounders completed the cards.

David Alvarado, 129½, won a majority decision over Raymond Flores, 132.

Julian Flores, 115½, and John Vasquez, 116, drew.

Danny Trevino, 162½, knocked out Jose Martinez, 167, in two.

Arthur Trevino, 148½, knocked out Roland Guerro, 148, in four.

Promoter: Main Events.
(8-12-88)

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VIRGINIA

▶**CRYSTAL CITY**—Stafford's Shawn Evans, 186, stopped Hampton's Bobby Franklin, 182, in the second round of the scheduled eight-round main event.

Norfolk's Stacy Burris, 146, decisioned Portsmouth's Darryl Richardson, 142, over six.

Four four-rounders completed the card.

Paul Wilson, 147, Stafford, stopped Keith English, 143, Stafford, in the first.

Ken Ringo, 168, Alexandria, decisioned Fred Jordan, 169, Portsmouth.

Calvin Faggin, 123, Alexandria, decisioned Ric Fletcher, 127, Portsmouth.

Doc Ross, 146, Alexandria, stopped Atifulla Ashrafi, 144, Alexandria, in the first.

Promoter: Troy Stone Productions.
Referees: Rothenberg & Levy.
Judges: Whitestone & Bryan.
Timekeeper: Peters.
Physician: Pulizzi.
(7-30-88)

WEST VIRGINIA

▶**MINERALWELLS**—West Virginia Motor Speedway—Parkersburg's John Loscar, 165, certainly appreciates the value of body punching. After losing the first round by a wide margin, Loscar swept the final three rounds by battering Nate Moore's ribs to register a revenge four-round, unanimous decision.

Loscar raised his ledger to 4-1 with three KOs, while Moore, who weighed 160, slipped to 4-3.

This was a rematch of a bout that took place June 3 at Raleigh County's Armory in Beckley. In that match, Loscar utilized a withering body attack over the first three rounds, but Moore came back strong in the final stanza to take a controversial split decision.

"There was a revenge factor because, personally, I didn't think he beat me," said Loscar. "The commissioner told me that he didn't beat me, so I said 'I want a rematch with him.' I got one and beat him."

Moore, who resides in Huntington, overwhelmingly won the first round by muscling Loscar to the ropes and winging shots from all angles. Moore's punches possessed much more snap and it looked as if he would repeat his win of seven weeks before.

In Round Two, Moore continued to press inside with a varied body-head attack highlighted by vicious double hooks to the ribcage. At mid-round, Loscar, lethargic to this point, bulled Moore to the ropes and unleashed three strong uppercuts and a left hook. Moore suddenly lost his first-round technique and found it extremely difficult to regain it as the bout progressed.

Loscar continued his assault in Round Three by digging short uppercuts to the breadbasket, one of which forced Moore to spit clear across the ring. With Moore's second, state welterweight champion Donald Gwinn, urging him to stay off the ropes, Moore fell through the strands after absorbing several more body blows.

After rising at eight, Moore avoided further punishment by staying close and smothering Loscar's follow-up efforts.

The two warred evenly on the inside in the final round's first two minutes, but with a nasty welt erupting under his eye, Loscar sealed the victory in the last 60 seconds with a half-dozen uppercuts to the body.

"Last time, I didn't train very well and I was just getting over the flu," the winner said. "This time, I used the uppercuts because most people don't train their bodies enough to overcome body punches. If you take away the body, you've got the rest of them beat."

Joe Frazier and Roberto Duran couldn't have said it better.

Promoter: Jerry Thomas, West Virginia Sports Promotions, Inc.
Referee: Dave Johnson.
Judges: Ron Abbott, Stan Epler & Jim Beckett.
Physicians: Dave Avery & Richard Yocum.
Timekeepers: Gordon Moore & Mike Beckett.
Announcer: Jerry Thomas.
Attendance: 1,500 (est.).
(7-29-88)

▶**MINERALWELLS**—West Virginia Motor Speedway—Gary "Kompac Kid" Traugh, 147, Parkersburg, came back from a 10-month layoff to stop Cleveland's Gene Holley, 148, at 2:50 of the first round.

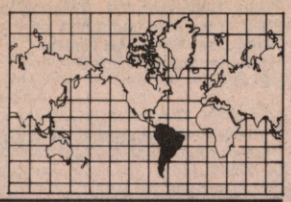
Traugh not only had to overcome the long layoff, but also the lack of sparring and a back injury that kept him out of commission in the weeks before the bout. The "Kompac Kid" sustained a slipped disk in his back during a workout and the injury pushed back his training schedule two weeks. After his recovery two weeks before his bout with Holley, Traugh sparred only once. Although he said his back was fine, he could not tell what effect the ring rust would have on him. Against Holley, though, it didn't matter.

After an initial feeling-out period, Traugh's body work forced Holley to the ropes, where he would stay for the remainder of the bout. Traugh (4-0, three KOs) cut the 15-foot square ring to phone-booth size with his aggressive body attack and staggered Holley (6-5, two KOs) with several overhand rights. A sharp left hook to the chin, the third punch of a four-punch combination, drove Holley to his knees. Up at one, Holley's night ended with Traugh's next punch, an overhand right to the chops. Holley gamely attempted to rise, but fell two more times as the count reached 10.

Traugh's fight against Holley and John Loscar's decision over Nate Moore the previous night were featured pro bouts sandwiched between bouts for the utter travesty known as the World Toughman and Toughwoman championships.

Promoter: West Virginia Sports Promotions.
Referee: Dave Johnson.
Judges: Ron Abbott, Stan Epler & Jim Beckett.
Physicians: Dave Avery & Richard Yocum.
Timekeepers: Gordon Moore & Mike Beckett.
Announcer: Jerry Thomas.
Attendance: 1,000 (est.).
(7-30-88)

LEE GROVES



SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA

▶**SAN ANDRES ISLAND**—Tommy Valdez TKO'd Francisco Gelez in the fourth round of a scheduled eight between Colombian bantamweights.

Antonio Montero knocked out Clonisio Blanco in the first round of a welterweight bout.

Gilberto Barreto outpointed former Colombian welterweight champion Anibal Miranda of Barranquilla to gain the vacant title.
(5-28-88)

▶**BARRANQUILLA**—Apolo Free Air Cinema, Las Nieves — Colombian bantamweight champion Carlos Rocha won an eight-round decision over Luis Berrio in a non-title bout.

Lightweight Manuel Salas knocked out Gregorio Gomez in the first.

Robinson Quiroz outpointed Alirio Macias in a flyweight eight.

Featherweight Gonzalo Saldana decisioned Rafael Martinez over six.

Orlando Marimon knocked out Jose Mena in three, lightweights.

Manuel Ariza outpointed Leo Padilla in a six-round featherweight bout.

Ivan Iglesias knocked out Fernando Rodriguez in the first, flyweights.
(6-25-88)

▶**CARTAGENA**—Wilfrido Rocha outpointed Alejandro Sarabia in a six-round match between hometown lightweights.

Antonio Montero, 122, decisioned Humberto Beleno, 122, over six.

▶**BARRANQUILLA**—Salon Jumbo Country Club — In a very good performance, **Rodolfo Blanco,** San Onofre, stopped Felix Marti of the Dominican Republic in the sixth round.

Marti, who lost a 12-round decision to **Fidel Bassa** in a bid for Bassa's WBA flyweight title last December, suffered a cut over his right eye, and the ringside physician ruled the wound too serious for Marti to continue.

Blanco dropped Marti in the second and third rounds of the flyweight match.

Rafael Pineda knocked out Bucaramanga's Carlos Mantilla in the first round of a scheduled 10. Mantilla is the Colombian lightweight champion, but his crown was not on the line.

Pineda floored Mantilla with a jab. Mantilla got up, but retired to his corner.

The victory was the 17th straight knockout for the 17-0 San Cristobal-born Pineda, who will turn 23 January 12. Four of the knockouts have come in the first round.

Manuel Salas and Claudio Salgado drew in an eight-round welterweight bout. Both were cut.

Julio Coronell decisioned Victor Tejedor in a six-round flyweight match.

Mauricio Bernal, Bogota, won a six-round, unanimous decision over Jose Iriarte, flyweights.

In a bad fight, Juan Rodriguez outpointed Robinson Mosquera over eight.

Rafael Zuniga, Cartagena, iced Lizardo Ortiz in the second round.
(7-15-88)

LUIS A. GONZALEZ V.

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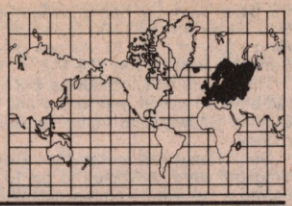

EUROPE

GERMANY

▶**TIMMENDORF**—Mehrzweck Hall — The Berlin Boxing Team group braved a show in what we call the "ticking over" period between seasons at this East coast seaside resort, a somewhat virgin territory for boxing considering the last show here was 11 years ago.

The promotion group was rewarded with an appreciative assembly of nearly 1,500 in the 2,500-seat hall where 600 seats were available at the affordable price of DM20.

The scrap of the card was the eight-rounder between German Ralf Rocchigiani and Benelux cruiserweight champion Jan Lefeber from Holland. Referee Heinrich Muhmert and judges Norbert Krosch and Uwe Uhlmann turned in cards favoring the German, who has lost just two of 32 bouts. Lefeber suffered his third loss in 25 starts.

The light heavyweight bout between 26-year-old Frank Wissenbach and 31-year-old southpaw Josef Kossmann developed into a one-sided brawl with the towel being thrown in during Round Nine to save Kossmann from undue harm. Wissenbach had failed on three occasions to lift the domestic middleweight title from Andreas Prox.

Two six-round welterweight bouts were competitive and went the distance. The highly touted 19-year-old Young Paddy Pipa made his score 11-0 with a decision over Yugoslav Mehmet Zolic and 19-year-old ex-DDR amateur Silvio Mieckley preserved his unbeaten record, winning his fifth straight with a decision over Hamburg-based Turk Cetin Kose in a bout that saw both warned by referee Uhlmann for unfair tactics.

Local-based Turk Senturn Ozdemir knocked out Yugoslavia's David Makmutovic with a right hook to the head in Round Three of another welterweight bout.

Hartmut Sasse, ex-champion of Germany in the heavyweight division making a comeback on his 39th birthday after three years of retirement, decisioned fellow countryman Horst Schulze over four rounds. Sasse won the German title in his ninth pro start in 1973, but lost it in his first defense. In 1976, Sasse fought **Gerrie Coetzee** in Johannesburg, decking the South African in the opening round before losing an eight-round decision. He also sparred with **Muhammad Ali** when Ali was preparing for his Manila bout with Joe Frazier. He retired in 1977, but came back in 1985 only to lose on a cut-eye stoppage to fellow German Sigi Kohler.

Matchmaker: Jean Marcel Nartz.

Officials: Klaus Peter Gumpert, Norbert Krosch, Heinrich Muhmert & Uwe Uhlmann.
(7-29-88)

▶**HELMSTEDT**—Dieter Schuster was one promoter brave enough to risk a show during the time fans are on vacation. It cost him money as only 150 showed for this four-fight card.

Heavyweight Andrea Schweiger stopped Bernd Kulle in three.

Light heavyweight Harald Schulte won a six-round decision over Frank Czyzewski.

Middleweight Horace Fleary stopped Zeljko Seslik in four.

Jurgen Klappert stopped Peter Rutz in two.

Matchmaker: Dieter Schuster.

Referees: Casimir & Bertram.

Timekeepers: Hammerich & Fischer.

Physician: Habelitz.
(7-2-88)

▶**NOTES:** Richard Vogt died July 12 at the age of 75 in Hamburg. In the amateur ranks, Vogt had over 200 contests and, although he never won a domestic crown, he collected a silver medal at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, losing in the final to Frenchman Roger Michelot on points. He turned pro in 1938 and won the German light heavy title on three occasions. In 1942, he was decisioned over 15 rounds by Italian Luigi Musina in a bout for the European light heavyweight crown. **Max Schmeling's** last fight was in Berlin against Vogt, who won the 10-rounder on points before 20,000. Max was 43, Vogt, 35. Vogt had another 15 bouts, fighting his last contest in 1952 at the age of 39. He finished 55-8-9 with one no contest.

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ITALY

▶**LIVORNO**—Stretching his current win streak to nine, **Nino LaRocca**, 147¾, scored a 10-round decision over American David Taylor.

LaRocca was too fast and too skillful for Taylor, who was reduced to trying illegal tactics that only drew warnings from the referee.

LaRocca is seeking a shot at Mauro Martelli's European welterweight title.
(7-30-88)

▶**MODENA**—Seeking a world title shot, Maurizio Stecca, 128, won a convincing, eight-round decision over Mexican Rafael Gandarilla, 134.

Stecca won an Olympic gold medal and criticized his manager, Umberto Branchini, for not securing a title shot to this date. Stecca has had 27 professional fights.

An accidental butt ended the scheduled 12 between Gianni DeNapoli and Antonio Renzo for the vacant Italian super featherweight title, DeNapoli being declared the winner when Renzo was cut over the right eye.
(7-30-88)

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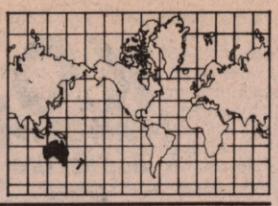

PAN PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

▶**MT. PRITCHARD**—Community Club—Apollo Sweet, 193, scored a comfortable points win over Daniel Saylor, 195, in a 10-rounder.

Judges Des Boyd (97-93), Mick Dunningham (99-95) and John Wright (98-91) all saw it for Apollo, who was just a little too sweet for Saylor in the skill department, though the loser fought hard.

In six-rounders, Rocky Ristuccia, 165¼, outpointed Joe Rabuka, 161¼, and Danny Fletcher, 143¼, outpointed John James, 141¾.

Over the four-round distance, Shaun Jenkins, 143¼, outpointed Brendan Foley, 146, and Vic Caruso, 181½, drew with Ray Kelly, 177¼.

Referee: Ray Wheatley.
(6-15-88)

▶**MOORE PARK**—Hordern Pavilion—Mark down this main event as one of the top fights seen here in the last 12 months.

Mark Janssen, 157¾, held his Australian middleweight title with a points win over Joe Nitiva, 159¼, over 12 rounds.

It was a case of boxer (Janssen) against fighter, and the boxer won, but had to perform at his best. Judge Don Marks scored 117-114, which was close to *The Ring*'s tally of 117-113. Judges Billy Males and Mick Bennetto each carded 118-112.

There were no knockdowns, but there was plenty of red-blooded action and at the end the crowd at this Sydney Showground venue showered the ring with money.

Geoff Peate and former Australian champion Kevin Wagstaff were scheduled to go 10, but Wagstaff received a cut eye from an accidental clash of heads in Round One and the contest ended in just 1:28, the result being a draw. Peate scaled 188¾, Wagstaff, 190.

Adam Fogerty, 224, outpointed Niko Degei, 241½, over eight. It was a clear win, but the bout had its moments.

Also over eight, Paul Edwards, 160¼, outpointed Alex Tui, 159¼, in an exciting bout that drew a large shower of money. Marks scored 79-76, Males 77-76, and Bennetto, 77-77.

Adrian Riley, 148, outpointed Terry Roberts, 146, over eight good rounds. It was a clear win, but not easy.

Promoter: Bill Mordey.

Referees: John Cauchi & Billy Males.
(6-27-88)

▶**MOORE PARK**—Hordern Pavilion, Sydney Showground—Australian **Jeff "Hit Man" Harding**, 168¾, added another scalp to his collection when he halted American **Don Lee**, 169¾, at the end of Round Eight.

Officially, a cut eye brought the stoppage. But Lee was on borrowed time. There was no way he would have survived 10 rounds, even without the cut. At the end, the scores read 78-75, 77-73 and 78-74, all in favor of Harding, who was coming on fast as Lee was fading.

In a 12-round battle listed as the main support, Peter Mitrevski, 115¾, met Charlie Brown, 116¾, for the vacant Australian bantamweight title. Mitrevski already holds the Australian junior bantamweight title and Brown used to be Australian flyweight champion way back. Referee Brian McMahon disqualified Brown in Round Six for butting. Brown was incensed, claiming Mitrevski had started that type of action. Heads sure did collide at times—not deliberately (except once or twice), but carelessly. At the end, Mitrevski was ahead on two cards and getting on top.

In an eight-rounder, Terry Roberts, 150, outpointed Glen Collis, 147½, with a clear, unanimous decision after a good fight.

Over six rounds, Simon Maidment, 138, outpointed veteran Kirk Blair, 134¾, winning every round.

David Amos, 145, outpointed Shaun Jenkins, 147½, over four.

Joe Rabuka, 163, outpointed Brad Orr, 159¾, over four in a split decision, though there appeared no doubt Rabuka was the winner.

Promoter: Bill Mordey's Classic Promotions.

Referee: Ray Wheatley.

Attendance: 3,000 (est.).
(7-18-88)

▶**DAPTO**—Leagues Club—Two eight-rounders headlined this bill, but the night had a lowlight.

As the bell rang for the start of the fourth round of a scheduled six between David Entwhistle, 140, and Willis Middleton, 144½, Entwhistle's trainer **Reg Bradley** collapsed in the corner and died. Referee Mick Dunningham stopped the contest and the result was declared a draw.

Vito Gaudiosi, 164¼, outpointed Darren Mees, 160½, over eight.

Simon Maidment, 136, outpointed Mario Crisafulli, 136¼, over eight.

Rodney Simpson, 143¼, knocked out Danny Fletcher, 152, in the fourth of a scheduled six.

Bob Mirovic, 247, outpointed Mark Moran, 205, who was making his debut, with a four-round, split decision.

Promoter: Frank Axisa.
(7-29-88)

TASMANIA

▶**LAUNCESTON**—Albert Hall—Former Australian featherweight and junior lightweight champion Tony Miller met Craig Pevy in a bout billed for the vacant Australian featherweight title.

Miller, 125¾, had lost this crown to **Jeff Fenech**, but Fenech forfeited it when he won the WBC featherweight crown and Miller regained it with a clear win. Pevy, 125¼, was not rated in the feather division, so he should not have gotten a shot at the vacant crown.

Simon Maidment, 134¼, drew with Tony Marretta, 134¾, over 10.

Mark Bateman, 161, knocked out Guy Murdoch, 160¼, in the final round of a six.

Promoter: Albert Hall Casino.

Referee: Malcolm Bulner.
(6-24-88)

QUEENSLAND

Australia's Lester Ellis was victorious in two bouts that featured similar strange endings. Read Ray Mitchell's monthly report for details.

▶**BRISBANE**—Festival Hall—Australian lightweight and junior welterweight champion **Lester Ellis**, 137, easily outpointed Japan's Iawo Otomo, 136½, over 10.

It was a kamikaze job by Otomo. They do not come any tougher or more courageous, but the judges had Ellis winning easily, Des Creed scoring 100-85, Steve Scott seeing it 99-87 and Cyril Cairns posting 99-89.

There was a questionable ending as Otomo was gone in Round 10 and referee Alan Moore applied a count. How many did he count? Reportedly, Moore said he counted to 10 while Otomo was on his feet. Certainly, he walked over and crowned Ellis the winner. However, it appears the bell must have rung before Moore reached 10 because the cards were called for and a decision was announced. However, newspapers reported it as a stoppage!

In the 10-round main support, Ken Carter, 135, knocked out Mike Slivka, 133½, in the second round to win the vacant Queensland state lightweight crown. Referee Creed counted out Slivka at 2:12.

Rod Carr, 180½, outpointed Craig Petersen, 181, over eight in a clear win.

Over six, Guy Parker, 157, outpointed Dave Chaffey, 150. Parker was too experienced and won clearly.

Troy Power, 140, outpointed Lance Austin, 138, over four.

Mal Ward, 175, outpointed Jeff Hardman, 170, over four.

Dave Foster, 117, outpointed Tony Read, 126, over three.

Promoter: Reg Layton.

Attendance: 3,500.
(7-13-88)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

▶**ADELAIDE**—Apollo Entertainment Centre—For the same questionable ending to happen to the same boxer in two consecutive contests is something for *The Guinness Book of Records*. Well, get out your pens and note this one.

Lester Ellis, 140, met Commonwealth junior welterweight champion Tony Laing, 139, over 12 for the latter's crown. In the final round, Ellis cut loose, had Laing gone, and referee Jim Boland leaped between them

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and raised the hand of Ellis. But a couple of minutes later, the scoring was announced, with Ellis winning unanimously. Chris Anderson scored 118-108, Malcolm Bulner, 118-109, and Johnny Wheeler, 119-109. A replay of the final round revealed the bell did ring before the referee jumped in.

Laing showed well the first few rounds, while Ellis, a former IBF junior lightweight titleholder, was untidy. But Ellis got his act together, took charge and clearly won.

In a 12-round support, Rod Carr, 166¼, halted John Bogolin, 165½, in Round Three for the vacant OPBF super middleweight title. Carr got on top and Bogolin did not know whether he was in Adelaide or Amsterdam, so referee Bulner rescued him. The strange thing about this contest was that Joe Nitiva and Tom West were—and are—both rated higher than Bogolin, so how did Bogolin get the fight?

Over eight rounds, Ken Carter, 140¾, knocked out Gary Clark, 140¼, in the third after picking himself off the deck in Round One.

Over four rounds, Adrian Riley had too much weight for Eric Rigney—153¾ to 138½—and halted Rigney in Round Two.

Promoter: Richard Cartwright.

Attendance: 2,000 (est.).

(8-4-88)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

▶**CLOVERDALE**—Cloverdale Hotel—Matthew Smith, 147, outpointed Brad Mogeridge, 147, over 10 rounds to take Mogeridge's Western Australia welterweight title.

The result from judges Laurie Flanders, Marty McDonald and John Hudson was split.

In another 10, Rah Puki, 147, outpointed Lorne Lehman, 147, unanimously. Lehman was down twice.

The remaining contests were amateur bouts.

Promoter: John Riches.

Referee: Bill Driffill.

(7-29-88)

VICTORIA

▶**MILDURA**—Basketball Centre—Engaging in his first fight, aside from kick-boxing, since 1982, Marc Ecimovic, 233¾, held Mark Saris, 211¼, to a split decision, judge Chris Anderson scoring for Ecimovic, judges Jim Boland and Pauline Steinman carding for Saris after 10 rounds.

Kevin Barry, 229¼, one of the leading contenders for the Australian heavyweight title, appeared in a six-rounder to help the program and clearly outpointed Stan Longinidis, 209½.

In another six, Mick Russell, 158, outpointed Nick Lawson, 159, in a good battle.

Tony Torlasie, 158, knocked out Noel Thatcher, 160, in the second round of a scheduled four when Thatcher's corner threw in the towel. Both were making pro debuts.

Promoter: Tony Salta.

Referee: Johnny Wheeler.

(7-16-88)

▶**WERRIBEE**—Centenary Hall—Australian welter champ Wilf Gentzen, 147¾, met Mark Vallance, 145½, over 10 of a non-title bout, but the contest ended in Round Three with both bleeding from cut eyebrows after several head clashes. The cards were collected, but the scores went three ways so a draw was given.

Over eight rounds, Ken Carter, 143½, outpointed Paul Delosa, 137¾, in a willing encounter.

Dave Ramsden, 156½, outpointed Mark Bateman, 156¾, over six.

Stefan Eva, 147¾, outpointed Gary Schrober, 145½, over six.

Promoter: Peter Hewitt.

(7-22-88)

▶**BAIRNSDALE**—Recreation Hall—Australian featherweight champ Tony Miller, 127¾, outpointed Filipino Momong Manaay, 125¾, in a good, reasonably close fight.

In an eight-rounder, the only other pro bout on the bill, Adrian Riley, 152¾, outpointed Bill Stevanoski, 156½.

There were amateur supports.

Promoter: Mick Croucher.

(7-30-88)

▶**CROYDON**—Leisure Centre—In the upset of not only this year, but several years, Apollo Sweet, who had never knocked out an opponent, won the Australian and OPBF cruiserweight crowns by knocking out defending champion Dave Russell.

While Russell is no Muhammad Ali in the toughness department, Sweet is no Mike Tyson in the hitting department.

Russell was leading going in to Round Nine when Sweet landed a punch Russell probably did not see. Russell beat the dismal decimal, but was copping plenty without return when referee Jim Boland rescued him at 2:48.

Sweet scaled 188½, Russell, 189½.

Over eight rounds, Paul Delosa, 143¼, outpointed Bill Stevanoski, 146½.

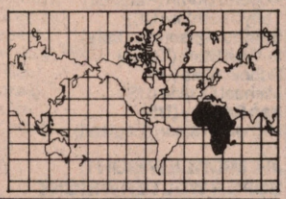
Over six, Michael Dugina, 147¾, outpointed Dean Hillman, 147¾.

Promoter: Leo Berry.

(7-3-88)

▶**NOTES:** Australians Percy Israel and Ken Carter fought 10-rounders in Panguna, Papua New Guinea, on June 18, Israel outpointing Vincent Kokovi, while Carter lost on points to Rafael Lailai.

RAY MITCHELL



AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

▶**PORT ELIZABETH**—Victor Sonaba retained the Cape flyweight title when he stopped June Siko at 2:27 of the second round in a scheduled 10.

Sonaba was just too strong for the challenger and looked impressive.

After a year's layoff, Phindile Gaika came back as a featherweight to outpoint Vuyani Mbinda over six.

(5-15-88)

▶**EAST LONDON**—Orient Theatre—After an interesting and rather tough fight, Vuyani Bungu caused a major upset by defeating Sexon Ngqayimbanya over 10 rounds to take the Cape junior featherweight title.

A seven-fight novice, Bungu was in superb condition and completely outboxed his more fancied opponent.

(6-5-88)

▶**WELKOM**—Paul Ramogoa completely overwhelmed Johannes Phumo to score a knockout at 2:30 of the first round in a featherweight bout.

Steve Moiloa stopped Isaac Maitse in the eighth round for the OFS welterweight title in a rather scrappy and mauling fight.

(5-28-88)

▶**JOHANNESBURG**—Standard Bank Arena—WBA junior lightweight champion **Brian Mitchell**, 131¾, completely outclassed Danilo Cabrera, 130, Dominican Republic, to score a unanimous, 10-round decision in a non-title fight.

Mitchell became rather frustrated against an opponent only intent on survival and had to contend with Cabrera's clutching and negative tactics throughout, but still lifted his record to 35-1-2.

Charles Oosthuizen, 158, suffered his fourth defeat against tough Brett Lally, 159½, of the United States when Oosthuizen suffered a bad cut over his left eye in the ninth round. Oosthuizen fought the wrong fight and was unable to keep out the bustling American, who scored with good punches to the head as he continuously backed up the African.

Gregory Clark, 150, the South African junior middleweight champion, scored a six-round TKO against a rather mediocre Eduardo Batista, 150, of the Dominican Republic.

Welcome Ncita, 116½, the South African flyweight champion, maintained his unbeaten record with a disputed, 10-round decision over the awkward Juan Rodriguez, 113¾, of Colombia.

South African lightweight champion Nika Khumalo, 142, knocked out Rafael Ramos, 138½, with a terrific right to the side of the head in the second of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Harley Hirschman/SA Boxing Promotions.

Attendance: 6,500 (est.).

(6-4-88)

South African bantamweight champion Simon Skosana struggled to stop American Mark Hammon on the Vice-Baronet undercard in Durban.

▶**DURBAN**—Soloman Zuma, the Natal light heavyweight champion, scored a fifth-round TKO over Douglas Sibiya, who threw up his arms in surrender midway through the round.

In a middleweight bout, Alson Nkosi was stopped by Ian Mngadi in the second round.

Light heavyweight Japie Fourie added another knock-

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IBF/WBA/WBC RATINGS

HEAVYWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Mike Tyson (US)	**C**	**C**	**C**
Carl Williams (US)	1	3	3
James Douglas (US)	2	–	5
Frank Bruno (England)	3	1	1
Pinklon Thomas (US)	4	–	–
Trevor Berbick (US)	5	9	8
Orlin Norris (US)	6	7	9
Francesco Damiani (Italy)	7	2	–
Tim Witherspoon (US)	8	10	12
Jose Ribalta (US)	9	6	4
Razor Ruddock (Canada)	10	5	6
Adilson Rodrigues (Brazil)	–	4	2
Tyrell Biggs (US)	–	8	16
Tony Tubbs (US)	–	–	7
Michael Dokes (US)	12	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHT/ JR. HEAVYWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Evander Holyfield (US)	**C**	**C**	**C**
Patrick Lumumba (Kenya)	1	6	5
Anthony Witherspoon (US)	2	–	12
Taoufik Balbouli (France)	3	3	4
Bash Ali (US)	4	–	–
Alfonso Ratliff (US)	5	–	23
Ralf Rocchigiani (Germany)	6	–	16
Michael Greer (US)	7	5	3
Sammy Reeson (England)	8	1	7
Magne Havanaa (Denmark)	9	–	22
Everett Martin (US)	10	4	15
Carlos DeLeon (Puerto Rico)	–	2	2
Bert Cooper (US)	11	7	9
Ossie Ocasio (Puerto Rico)	–	8	–
Sherman Griffin (US)	–	9	–
Glenn McCrory (England)	12	10	6
Michael Spinks (US)	–	–	1
Daniel Netto (Argentina)	–	–	8
Angelo Rottoli (Italy)	–	–	10

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Charles Williams (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Uriah Grant (US)	1	10	10
Rufino Angulo (France)	2	–	–
Frankie Swindell (US)	3	–	13
Tony Willis (US)	4	1	1
Dennis Andries (England)	5	9	3
Bobby Czyz (US)	6	–	9
Joe Lasisi (Nigeria)	7	5	4
Leslie Stewart (Trinidad)	8	7	5
Tom Collins (England)	9	2	2
Jorge Salgado (Argentina)	10	–	18
Virgil Hill (US)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Chong-Pal Park (Korea)	–	3	–
Jean-Marie Emebe (Cameroon)	–	4	17
Ramzi Hassan (US)	–	6	7
Willy Featherstone (Canada)	–	8	8
Don Lalonde (Canada)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Alex Blanchard (Holland)	–	–	6

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Graciano Rocchigiani (Germany)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Lindell Holmes (US)	1	1	1
James Kinchen (US)	2	5	3
Chris Reid (US)	3	4	4
Frank Tate (US)	4	–	–
Jeff Harding (Australia)	5	–	5
Vincent Boulware (US)	6	10	9
Tarmo Uusivirta (Finland)	7	9	6
Nigel Benn (England)	8	–	–
Thulani Malinga (South Africa)	9	–	–
Mike Peak (US)	10	–	–
Fulgencio Obelmejias (Venezuela)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Thomas Hearns (US)	–	2	–
Victor Cordova (Panama)	11	3	10
Jay Strickland (US)	–	6	–
Wang-Sup Lee (Korea)	–	7	–
Mark Kaylor (England)	–	8	–
Nicky Walker (US)	–	–	7
Sanderline Williams (US)	–	–	8
Chong-Pal Park (Korea)	–	–	2

MIDDLEWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Michael Nunn (US)	**C**	**–**	**2**
Frank Winterstein (France)	1	–	11
Mike McCallum (US)	2	2	6
Jose Quinones (Puerto Rico)	3	–	7
Thomas Hearns (US)	4	–	1
Doug DeWitt (US)	5	4	16
Chris Tiozzo (France)	6	6	12
Juan Roldan (Argentina)	7	7	13
Herol Graham (England)	8	1	3
Roberto Duran (Panama)	9	3	5
Tony Thornton (US)	10	10	15
Sumbu Kalambay (Italy)	**–**	**C**	**–**
In-Chul Baek (Korea)	–	5	9
Robbie Sims (US)	–	8	8
Michael Olajide (US)	12	9	4
Iran Barkley (US)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Michael Watson (England)	11	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT/ SUPER WELTERWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Matthew Hilton (Canada)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Robert Hines (US)	1	4	5
Troy Waters (Australia)	2	–	10
Darrin Van Horn (US)	3	2	4
Jose Varela (Germany)	4	9	14
Lupe Aquino (US)	5	3	2
Carlos Santos (Puerto Rico)	6	8	16
Gianfranco Rosi (Italy)	7	6	3
Francisco DeJesus (Brazil)	8	–	–
Rene Jacquot (France)	9	–	15
Carlos Elliott (Japan)	10	–	28
Julian Jackson (Virgin Islands)	**–**	**C**	**–**
John Mugabi (Uganda)	–	1	1
Francisco Lisboa (Indonesia)	–	5	27
Buster Drayton (US)	12	7	8
Jun-Sok Hwang (Korea)	–	10	17
Donald Curry (US)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Duane Thomas (US)	–	–	6
Al Long (US)	–	–	7
Chris Pyatt (England)	–	–	9

WELTERWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Simon Brown (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Al Long (US)	1	–	–
Tyrone Trice (US)	2	–	9
Marlon Starling (US)	3	3	–
Jorge Maysonet (Puerto Rico)	4	–	16
Manning Galloway (US)	5	7	30
Bobby Joe Young (US)	6	–	–
Mauro Martelli (Switzerland)	7	6	11
Mark Breland (US)	8	1	3
Jean Fontana (France)	9	–	25
Robert Rucker (US)	10	–	–
Tomas Molinares (Colombia)	**–**	**C**	**2**
Seung-Soon Lee (Korea)	–	2	4
Maurice Blocker (US)	–	4	13
Fujio Ozaki (Japan)	–	5	7
Yung-Kil Chung (Korea)	–	8	1
Armando Rodriguez (Venezuela)	–	9	–
Kirkland Laing (England)	–	10	5
Lloyd Honeyghan (England)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Derrick Kelly (US)	–	–	6
Helio Santana (Brazil)	–	–	8
Miguel Arroyo (Argentina)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHT/ SUPER LIGHTWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
James McGirt (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Jong Jung Pacquining (Philippines)	1	–	–
Meldrick Taylor (US)	2	1	2
Frankie Warren (US)	3	–	11
John Meekins (US)	4	6	6
Vinny Pazienza (US)	5	–	19
Courtney Hooper (US)	6	–	–
Frankie Randall (US)	7	–	8
Harold Brazier (US)	8	4	3
Tek N'Kalankete (France)	9	8	18
Angel Cruz (US)	10	–	–
Juan Coggi (Argentina)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Akinobu Hiranaka (Japan)	–	2	9
Kyung-Duk Ahn (Korea)	–	3	4
Mike Johnson (US)	–	5	26
Engels Pedroza (Venezuela)	–	7	20
Sang-Ho Lee (Korea)	–	9	15
Vincent Releford (US)	–	10	22
Roger Mayweather (US)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Rene Arredondo (Mexico)	–	–	1
Cassius Clay Horn (US)	–	–	5
Howard Davis (US)	–	–	7
Rodolfo Gonzalez (Mexico)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Greg Haugen (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Pernell Whitaker (US)	1	1	2
Amancio Castro (Colombia)	2	–	12
Fred Pendleton (US)	3	–	9
Angel Hernandez (Puerto Rico)	4	–	5
Gert Bo Jacobsen (Denmark)	5	10	–
Miguel Santana (Puerto Rico)	6	–	19
Louie Lomeli (US)	7	3	16
Primo Ramos (Mexico)	8	7	7
Sakad Petchyindee (Thailand)	9	–	18
Terrence Alli (US)	10	8	3
Julio Cesar Chavez (Mexico)	**–**	**C**	**1**
Edwin Rosario (Puerto Rico)	12	2	6
Rafael Pineda (Colombia)	–	4	4
John Duplessis (US)	–	5	13
Rodolfo Aguilar (Panama)	–	6	–
Alberto Cortes (Argentina)	–	9	11
Jose Luis Ramirez (Mexico)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Chil-Sung Chung (Korea)	–	–	8
Lester Ellis (Australia)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHT/ SUPER FEATHERWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Tony Lopez (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Tyrone Jackson (US)	1	2	7
Harold Knight (US)	2	8	5
Rocky Lockridge (US)	3	–	13
Juan LaPorte (US)	4	–	10
Ariel Duran (Philippines)	5	–	–
Jim McDonnell (England)	6	9	12
Barry McGuigan (Ireland)	7	5	2
Felipe Orozco (Colombia)	8	–	–
Mario Martinez (Mexico)	9	1	1
Roger Arevalo (Mexico)	10	–	6
Brian Mitchell (South Africa)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Mario Miranda (Colombia)	–	3	3
Jackie Beard (US)	–	4	21
Jose Rivera (Puerto Rico)	–	6	14
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (France)	11	7	16
Rene Weller (Germany)	–	10	–
Azumah Nelson (Ghana)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Lupe Suarez (US)	–	–	4
Johnny de la Rosa (Dominican Rep.)	–	–	8
Jean Marc Renard (Belgium)	–	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Calvin Grove (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Hector Lopez (US)	1	6	2
George Navarro (US)	2	–	3
Javier Marquez (Mexico)	3	–	6
Jeff Franklin (US)	4	–	14
Mauricio Stecca (Italy)	5	5	4
Jean Marc Renard (Belgium)	6	10	–
Jorge Paez (Mexico)	7	–	25
Miguel Francia (Argentina)	8	–	15
Tracy Patterson (US)	9	–	–
Bernard Taylor (US)	10	–	13
Antonio Esparragoza (Venezuela)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Jose Marmolejos (Panama)	–	1	–
Valerio Nati (Italy)	–	2	–
Tyrone Downes (Trinidad)	12	3	1
Marcos Villasana (Mexico)	–	4	5
Mitsuru Sugiya (Japan)	–	7	–
Hun-Yung Park (Korea)	–	8	–
Victor Callejas (Puerto Rico)	–	9	7
Jeff Fenech (Australia)	**–**	**–**	**C**

Samart Payakarun (Thailand)	–	–	8
Robert Rivera (Puerto Rico)	–	–	9
Byung-Soo Park (Korea)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHT/ SUPER BANTAMWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Jose Sanabria (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Samart Payaakaroon (Thailand)	1	–	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (Italy)	2	–	–
Manuel Miranda (Puerto Rico)	3	–	–
Pedro Decima (Argentina)	4	3	13
Jesse Benavides (US)	5	–	3
Valerio Nati (Italy)	6	–	2
Jesus Poll (US)	7	2	5
Ramon Cruz (Puerto Rico)	8	–	–
Steve McCrory (US)	9	–	6
Loris Stecca (Italy)	10	6	4
Juan Jose Estrada (Mexico)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Julio Gervacio (Dominican Rep.)	–	1	15
Carlos Romero (Venezuela)	–	4	9
Bernardo Pinango (Venezuela)	–	5	–
Mark Horikoshi (Japan)	–	7	7
Takuya Muguruma (Japan)	–	8	8
Fabrice Benichou (France)	–	9	–
Louie Espinoza (US)	–	10	10
Daniel Zaragoza (Mexico)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Seung-Soon Lee (Korea)	–	–	1

BANTAMWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Orlando Canizales (US)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Jimmy Navarro (US)	1	–	–
Raul Perez (Mexico)	2	4	5
Kelvin Seabrooks (US)	3	–	17
Ken Mitchell (US)	4	5	24
Fabrice Benichou (France)	5	–	–
Hurley Snead (US)	6	6	3
Cardenio Ulloa (Chile)	7	3	1
Ray Minus (Bahamas)	8	–	11
Simon Skosana (South Africa)	9	–	–
Roland Gomez (US)	10	–	–
Kaokor Galaxy (Thailand)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Edgar Monserrat (Panama)	–	1	7
Wilfredo Vasquez (Puerto Rico)	–	2	6
Frankie Duarte (US)	11	7	16
Paul Banke (US)	12	8	–
Sung-Kil Moon (Korea)	–	9	–
Chun Huh (Korea)	–	10	4
Miguel Lora (Colombia)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Alberto Davila (US)	–	–	2
Lucio Lopez (Argentina)	–	–	8
Israel Contreras (Venezuela)	–	–	9
Luisito Espinoza (Philippines)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHT/ SUPER FLYWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Elly Pical (Indonesia)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Juan Polo (Colombia)	1	–	11
Kong Payakaroon (Thailand)	2	3	13
Mauro Diaz (Mexico)	3	–	–
Santos Laciar (Argentina)	4	5	2
Armando Castro (Mexico)	5	–	9
Thanomsak Sithbaobey (Thailand)	6	4	6
Ki-Chang Kim (Korea)	7	–	–
Welcome Ncita (South Africa	8	–	–
Mike Phelps (US)	9	–	–
Renaldo Carter (US)	10	–	–
Kaosai Galaxy (Thailand)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (Japan)	–	1	4
Alberto Castro (Colombia)	–	2	14
Sugar Rojas (Colombia)	–	6	3
Juan Carazo (Puerto Rico)	–	7	1
Tae-Il Chang (Korea)	–	8	10
Chiaki Kobayashi (Japan)	–	9	17
Chang-Ho Choi (Korea)	–	10	5
Gilberto Roman (Mexico)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Sun-Kil Moon (Korea)	–	–	7
Ruben Condori (Argentina)	–	–	8

FLYWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Rolando Bohol (Philippines)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Duke McKenzie (England)	1	3	7
Ramon Medal (US)	2	5	14
Dodie Penalosa (Philippines)	3	–	15
Daorung Chuwatana (Thailand)	4	–	–
Kenji Matsumura (Japan)	5	4	13
Elvis Alvarez (Colombia)	6	–	–
Jose Ruiz (Puerto Rico)	7	–	–
Maphai Narachavat (Thailand)	8	–	–
Satoshi Shingaki (Japan)	9	–	–
Cho-Woon Park (Korea)	10	–	23
Fidel Bassa (Colombia)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Hilario Zapata (Panama)	–	1	17
Miguel Mercedes (Dominican Rep.)	–	2	2
Adrian Roman (Argentina)	–	6	6
Leopard Tamakuma (Japan)	–	7	5
Emil Matsushima (Japan)	–	8	10
Rafael Cabrera (Dominican Rep.)	–	9	28
Richard Clarke (Jamaica)	–	10	3
Yong-Kang Kim (Korea)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Sot Chitalada (Thailand)	–	–	1
Soon-Joong Kang (Korea)	–	–	4
Javier Lucas (Mexico)	12	–	8
Yul-Woo Lee (Korea)	–	–	9

JR. FLYWEIGHT/ LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Jum-Hwan Choi (Korea)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Mario DeMarco (Argentina)	1	2	8
Isidro Perez (Mexico)	2	–	3
Humberto Gonzales (Mexico)	3	1	2
Francisco Tejedor (Colombia)	4	5	4
Sonny Vidal (Philippines)	5	–	14
Tacy Macalos (Philippines)	6	–	11
Tony DeLuca (US)	7	–	–
Putt Ohyuthnakorn (Thailand)	8	10	18
Carlos Orobio (Panama)	9	–	26
Jose DeJesus (Puerto Rico)	10	3	5
Myung-Woo Yuh (Korea)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Rodolfo Blanco (Colombia)	–	4	6
Udin (Indonesia)	–	6	–
Armando Velasco (Mexico)	–	7	11
Katsumi Komiyama (Japan)	–	8	9
Hideyuki Ohashi (Japan)	–	9	10
Jung-Koo Chang (Korea)	**–**	**–**	**C**
German Torres (Mexico)	–	–	1
Agustin Garcia (Colombia)	–	–	7

MINI FLY/MINIMUMWEIGHT/ STRAWWEIGHT	IBF	WBA	WBC
Samuth Sithnarvelpol (Thailand)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Eric Chavez (Philippines)	1	–	12
Boy Lucas (Philippines)	2	–	4
Kajkong Danpoothai (Thailand)	3	–	14
Santiago Mendez (Mexico)	4	–	5
John Arief (Indonesia)	5	–	7
Trang Boonlert (Thailand)	6	6	25
In-Kyu Hwang (Korea)	7	–	–
Luis Monzote (US)	8	–	–
Hector Patri (Argentina)	9	–	17
Javier Varquez (Mexico)	10	–	6
Rafael Gamez (Venezuela)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Bong-Jun Kim (Korea)	–	1	–
Tony DeLuca (US)	–	2	–
Augustin Garcia (Colombia)	–	3	–
Sam-Joong Lee (Korea)	–	4	18
Jose Lagos (Argentina)	12	5	9
Ha-Shik Lim (Korea)	–	7	–
Kyung-Yun Lee (Korea)	–	8	2
Missile Kudo (Japan)	–	9	21
Benedicto Murillo (Panama)	–	10	–
Hiroki Ioka (Japan)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Nana Katwanchai (Thailand)	–	–	1
Sung-Woo Lee (Korea)	–	–	3
Ricardo Lopez (Mexico)	–	–	8
Francisco Montiel (Mexico)	11	–	10

out to his record, William Mabanjwa being the victim in just 1:25.
(6-6-88)

▶**DURBAN**—Westridge Tennis Stadium—**Kenny Vice** of the United States established his authority early to outbox **Brian Baronet** before knocking him out in the 10th round of a welterweight bout.

Baronet did not appear to be his usual self and as early as the second round his balance was uncoordinated. The ice-cool Vice was too fast for the rather sluggish Baronet and scored with crisp lefts and rights throughout until finally trapping Baronet in his own corner. The final punch landed on the back of Baronet's neck, and he slumped to the canvas where he was counted out.

The South African never regained consciousness and was taken from the ring on a stretcher. He was operated on for a blood clot on the brain, but unfortunately died seven days later.

This was a sad day for South African boxing. Baronet was a courageous fighter who brought a touch of class to the game. He always will be remembered for his swashbuckling style and his flashy hooks and uppercuts, which were a joy to watch. Baronet was a credit to the fight game. May he rest in peace.

Simon Skosana, South African bantamweight champion, was rather disappointing as he struggled to stop American Mark Hammon in the fourth round.

Fransie Badenhorst made hard work of stopping Scotsman Donnie Hood in the seventh round of a featherweight contest.

Promoter: M&R Promotions.
Attendance: 6,000 (est.).
(6-14-88)

RON JACKSON

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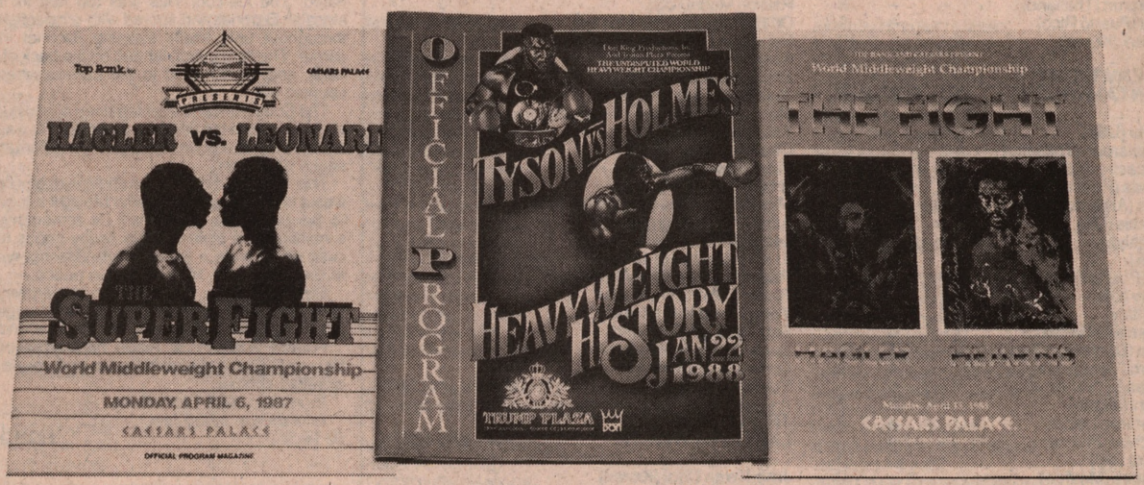

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ASK THE ANSWERMAN

By Phill Marder

Q: Could you please clarify a discrepancy in *The Ring Record Book and Boxing Encyclopedia?* On page 1,061, "Million Dollar Gates" the famed Dempsey-Firpo fight is listed as having been fought at the Polo Grounds, which is what I always thought to be true. But on page 71, "World Heavyweight Title Bouts," the same fight is listed as being fought at Madison Square Garden. Would you please identify which is the correct statistic?

ANTHONY PERNO
Hialeah, Florida

A: *The Jack Dempsey-Luis Firpo bout, won by Dempsey on a second-round knockout, took place in the Polo Grounds September 14, 1923.*

Q: I am very curious to know if a statement made by a friend is correct. He said Leon Spinks has held belts in both heavyweight (when he defeated Ali) and cruiserweight divisions. I remember the Ali-Spinks fight (fiasco), but have never heard of him holding a cruiserweight title. If so, who did he take the belt from and what alphabet group was it, WBA, WBC or IBF?

MONTE ADAMS
Ralford, Florida

A: *Your friend was close, but don't give him a cigar — unless it explodes. After he lost his heavyweight championship to Ali and was stopped by Larry Holmes, who by then was the WBC titleholder, Leon won the vacant NABF cruiserweight title with a 12-round decision over Jesse Burnett in Atlantic City in 1982. The next year he was stopped by perennial cruiserweight king Carlos DeLeon, but, amazingly, there was no title attached to that bout. In 1985, Spinks won the vacant Continental Americas Heavyweight title, but the next year was stopped by Dwight Braxton in a bid for the WBA junior heavyweight title. And don't you just love all these silly little titles?*

Q: On the March, '88 calendar in *The Ring*, it said Jack Johnson was born on March 31, 1897. That makes him the youngest heavyweight champion ever. Correct me if I'm wrong, or was there another Jack Johnson?

TONY MARTIN (age 11)
Essex, England

A: *If Jack Johnson was born in 1897, then he was 10 years old when he won the heavyweight championship. That would be a record tough to break even today. Pretty good catch for an 11-year-old. And to add insult to injury, there was postage due!!*

Q: Did Marvin Hagler fight "The Beast" Mugabi before he fought Tommy Hearns?

DON SLAUGHTER
Terre Haute, Indiana

A: *Hagler knocked out Hearns in three rounds in 1985, then stopped Mugabi in 11 almost a year later. His only fight after Mugabi was his loss to Sugar Ray Leonard.*

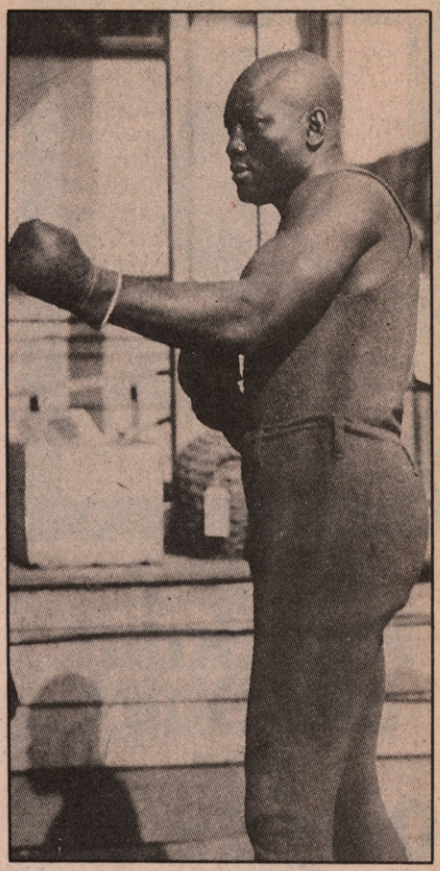
Q: Neither I nor my reference sources can find who the referee was when Joe Louis won the heavyweight boxing title in 1937. The only name that comes readily to mind is that of (Arthur) Donovan, who refereed so many of his bouts, but I believe I am wrong.

VIRGINIA G. GREENSPON
Huntington Park, California

A: *Arthur Donovan refereed 12 Joe Louis title bouts, but the ref who issued the count over Jim Braddock that made Louis world champion was Tommy Thomas.*

Q: Back home in Lima, Peru I used to hear my father mention Mauro Mina as Peru's greatest boxer of all time. Do you think this is an accurate opinion? Is it true Mina was on the verge of a title fight when he got sidetracked due to a retina detachment in the late 60s? Did he face any quality opposition?

RAFAEL TENORIO
Baltimore, Md.



"The Answerman" clears up a goof printed in THE RING'S March '88 calendar concerning former heavyweight champ Jack Johnson.

A: *Mauro Mina was a fine light heavyweight ranked in the top 10 by* ***The Ring****. However, whether or not he was the greatest fighter the country of Peru has produced is a topic for great debate. Mina did number some very important names among his victims, though, including Hank Casey (W10), Bob Foster (W10), Eddie Cotton (W12, W10), Henry Hank (W10), Von Clay (KO6), Jesse Bowdry (W10) and Sonny Ray (KO5).*

Q: In the April, 1987 issue, "Ask the Answerman" had a letter from a Mr. Bob Lete in Alvin, Illinois asking for a copy of Max Schmeling's autobiography. Would you please print his address. I know where I can get the book.

ERICH WALTER
Austria

A: *If Mr. Lete's out there, let's have an address for Mr. Walter!*

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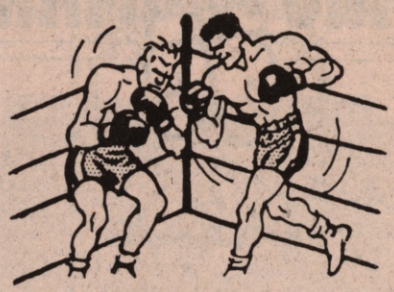

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Alfredo Mason WF2 Mbuyamba Kalombo
Bernardo Mercado TKO1 Wesley Watson
Ric Enis TKO8 Steve Mormino
Alfonso Ratliff TKO7 Rickey Parkey
Renaldo Snipes TKO7 Johnny Du Plooy
Mark Saris W10 Marc Ecimovic
Bernardo Mercado KO4 Wes Smith
Eddie Blackwell DQ7 Aaron Brown
Taoufik Balbouli TKO2 Lorenzo Boyd
Pierre Coetzer KO2 Tim Anderson
George Foreman KO2 Ladislao Mijangos
Orlin Norris W12 Dwain Bonds

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Michael Moorer TKO4 Terrance Walker
Rod Carr TKO3 John Bogolin
Jeff Harding TKO8 Don Lee
Miguel Maldonado W10 Hugo Corro
Lindell Holmes TKO1 Rickey Stackhouse
Jerry Okoro W10 James Williams

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Aaron Davis TKO7 Sammy Floyd
Dan Morgan TKO10 James Littlejohn
Dan Morgan TKO4 Brad Billings
In-Chul Baek KO6 Jae-Ok Kim
Udiyama KO4 Pakistani M. Iqbal
Jun Pastor TKO4 Pastor Arcaya
Terry Norris W10 Quincy Taylor
Knox Brown TKO5 Ronnie Yoe
Robert Hines TKO3 Jose DeLima
Doug DeWitt KO6 Alberto Gonzalez
Johnny Gutierrez W10 Angel Medina
Francisco DeJesus TKO8 Matt Farrago

WELTERWEIGHTS

Meldrick Taylor TKO12 James McGirt
(Won IBF Jr. Welter Title)
Renato Biagio Zurlo W12 Alessandro Duran
Harold Brazier TKO3 Herminio Morales
Mauricio Rodriguez W10 Felipe Julio
Helio Santana TKO3 Ricardo Espinosa
Felix Dubray W10 Tommy Degan
Allan Allegria TKO2 Won-San Kang
Amy Pacana TKO1 Jessie Solis
Mike Johnson D10 Martin Quiroz
Lester Ellis W10 Iawo Otomo
Lester Ellis W12 Tony Laing
Wilf Gentzen Tech.Draw3 Mark Vallance
Matthew Smith W10 Brad Mogeridge
Courtney Hooper W10 Filiberto Rosas
Edwin Rosario TKO3 Rafael Gandarilla
Donovan Boucher TKO1 Ali Salaam
Javier Suazo W10 Young Dick Tiger
Tyrone Trice TKO4 Luciano Fernandez
Mark Breland KO1 Pablo Baez
John Meekins TKO3 Mohammed Kawoya

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Gino Gelormino TKO5 Angel Hernandez
Capri Lipkin TKO6 Bobby Giepert
Luca De Lorenzi TKO1 John Senegal
Bernabe Aliping W12 Jessie Solis
Lulu Villaverde W12 Flash Ursus
Ariel Duran W10 Albert Saxon
Rolando Navarrete W10 Muhammed Juhari
Sung-Ho Shin TKO5 Yoshitatsu Nakazato
Takeyuki Akagi TKO7 Chong-Dae Yim
Ken Carter KO2 Mike Slivka
Rafael Pineda KO1 Carlos Mantilla
Tunde Foster TKO6 Juan Nunez
Anthony Boyle W10 Juan Muriel
David Gonzales TKO8 Rico Velasquez
Tyrone Jackson TKO8 Mark Hammon

Sung-Yong Chung (left) became the new OPBF junior flyweight champ by stopping Filipino titlist Sonny Vidal in nine rounds.

PHOTO BY JOE KOIZUMI

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Jeff Franklin W10 Hugo Anguiano
Jeff Fenech TKO5 Tyrone Downes
(Retained WBC Title)
Aspad Pattipelohy D10 Pat Bracero
Nurhuda W12 Boy Granciosa
Little Holmes W10 Hilbert Aragon
Joey Hiyas Tech.Dec.5 Fel Malatag
Miguel Arrozal W10 Mac Espanola
Elmer Cubillas TKO7 Poker Pelegrino
Kid Kanashiro W10 Rolando Navares
Rex Rapiso Tech.Dec.7 Vic Galme
Young Abaloyan Tech.Dec.7 Bert Pucay
Gilbert George W10 Rudy Cabiles
Steve Nerza D10 Tom Ramos
Fel Buriat W10 Jessim Garzon
Joe Abbot TKO5 Koichi Aramaki
Mark Horikoshi TKO5 Hisao Ishido
Yasuo Jinde W10 Edmondo Sanchez
Naoto Takahashi KO7 John Matienza
Leon Collins W10 Kazuya Kano
Fred Adams TKO1 Rigoberto Rosas
Steve McCrory W10 Francisco Segura
Myron Taylor TKO7 Domenico Monaco
Steve Cruz KO4 Fred Adams
George Navarro W10 Edward Parker
Jose Sanabria W12 Vincenzo Belcastro
(Retained IBF Super Bantam Title)
Carlos Romero W10 Jesus Salud

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Raul Perez W10 Wilfredo Vasquez
Sung-Kil Moon Tech.Dec.6 Kaokor Galaxy
(Won WBA Title)
Romeo Opriasa W10 Eldie Paradero
Flash Simene D10 Tim Balantay
Joel Solinap D10 Tony Boy Bello
Ric Apatan W10 Roy Pollard
Ari Blanca W10 Joseph Ladipe
Young Rey Cascas W10 Trifon Torralba
Fidel Ymbong W10 Bonnie Ballientos
Mario Parcon W10 Efren Beclar
Koheita Tanaka W10 Crasher Miura
Shunichi Nakajima KO6 Moriaki Arazaki
Jun Yonesaka W10 Ruben dela Cruz
Peter Mitrevski DQ6 Charlie Brown
Renaldo Carter TKO9 Tony Martinez
Roland Gomez W10 Mike Ayala
Simon Skosana W10 Jesse Williams
Gerardo Martinez KO4 Ron Cisneros

FLYWEIGHTS

Sung-Yong Chung TKO9 Sonny Vidal
Kyung-Yun Lee W10 Hi-Chung Noh
Azadin Anhar TKO8 Taufix Baty
Nico Thomas W12 Hudi
John Arief TKO12 Asawin Sordusit
Kajikong Danphoothai W10 Den Sorthanikul
Young Rey W10 Ricky Flor
Pretty Boy Lucas TKO7 Sang-Yun Han
Roger de Rama W10 William Alip
Felix Mantos W10 Jun Generale
Sonny Vidal TKO7 Allan Morre
Rocky Marcial Tech.Dec.8 Jongjong Perez
Tomohiro Kiyuna TKO9 Seiji Tomari
Rodolfo Blanco TKO6 Felix Marti
Paul Gonzales W10 Javier Diaz

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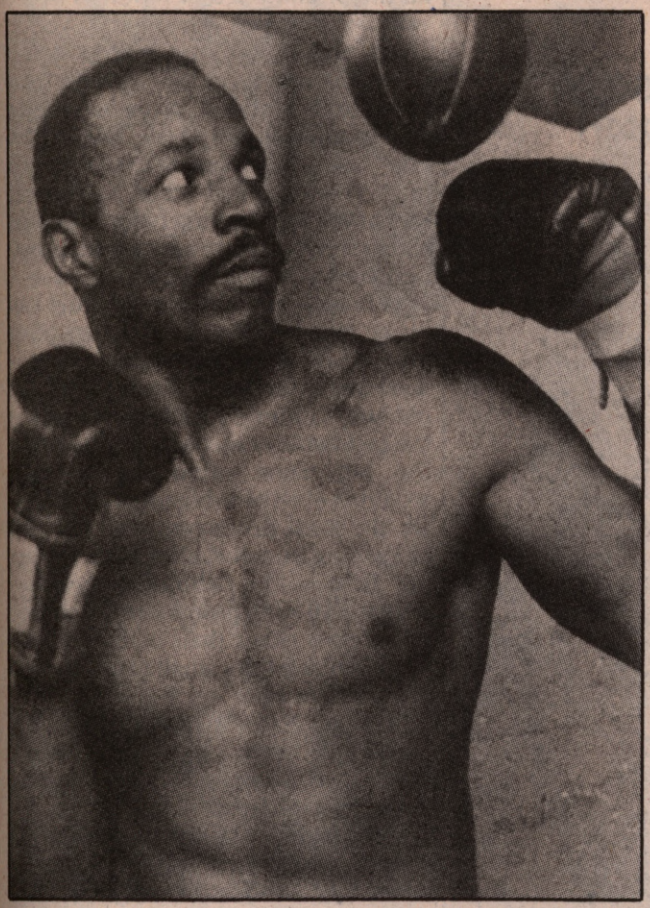
66 REASONS
"THE SUN NEVER SETS ON THE RING"

BOXER SHORTS

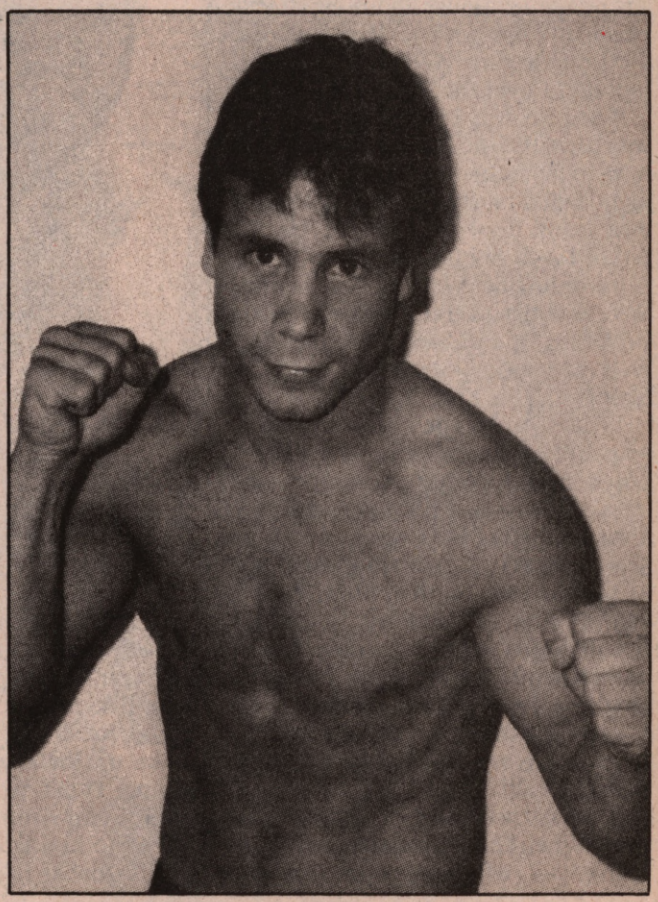
ART TUCKER HEAVYWEIGHT

IF IT IS TRUE THAT NICE GUYS FINISH last, then "Big" Art Tucker has no hope in boxing. The 6'6" heavyweight via Newark, N.J. may carry a crushing right hand, but his philosophy on life is far from fearsome ... Tucker took up boxing while serving a nine-year sentence in Rahway State Prison. He never had an amateur career and began boxing as a pro on the undercard of the infamous James Scott fights which took place in the prison. When Scott, the light heavyweight contender, retired, professional boxing within the prison also ended, putting Tucker's career on hold. He returned to the ring a free man in 1987 and has since compiled an impressive record of 12-0-1 with 10 KOs ... "Besides finding my place in boxing, I am looking for my place in society as a responsible human being," said Tucker after winning a third-round knockout over rugged Gary Lightbourne. "I want to set an example for the poor and underprivileged so that they can overcome any handicaps and make a better life for themselves ... be confident in their abilities. Boxing will be my vehicle!" ... With that attitude, Tucker has already earned a first-place finish for himself in the game of life. This is one nice guy who deserves a chance to be the best he can be. □



BOBBY McCARTHY FEATHERWEIGHT

ALL RIGHT BOXING FANS, PICK THE NEXT featherweight champion to hail from Ireland. Barry McGuigan, right? Wrong. A growing number of New York fight fans believe the next champ to hail from the "Emerald Isle" will be young Bobby McCarthy, who is from Tralee, County Kerry ... The rugged, hard-punching dynamo was born in Yonkers, but was raised in Ireland where he learned to fight because "If you didn't fight in my neighborhood you were considered a sissy." The 5'5" banger began boxing at age nine and compiled an impressive amateur record of 247-30. He fought in both the World Games and the Goodwill Games, where in each instance he lost narrowly by decision in the bronze medal rounds ... McCarthy, 24, moved back to America this past year to earn his living as a pro. He has blasted through his first four opponents at MSG's Felt Forum, scoring two first-round knockouts and a pair of decisions ... "I came here (America) to win the world title. I don't know if I'd ever fight McGuigan. Not that I fear him, but because he's Irish and so very popular. I guess I'd fight him if the money was right." ... The way this knockout artist has been fighting so far, it looks like a title shot and the money will soon enough be right. Right in his pocket! □



IN THIS CORNER

by Christopher Coats

JIMMY SOSA (Promoter)

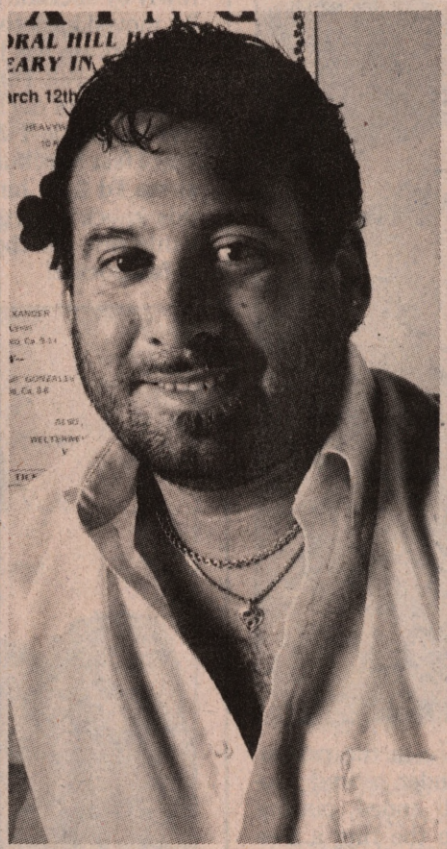


PHOTO BY FRANCIS CLEMENT

PROMOTING BOXING CARDS ISN'T THE easiest way to make money, but it's a sure way to get a major headache and maybe blow the bank account. In the strange and convoluted world of professional boxing it is the local promoter, someone like Jimmy Sosa from San Francisco, who keeps the sport alive.

Just 33 years old, Sosa has a wife and three kids and a cleaning business. And while he needs promoting about as much as falling down a flight of stairs, Sosa has put on over 30 boxing cards in the past five years . . . and has even turned a profit. In a sport that people either love or hate, it isn't hard to guess what motivates Jimmy Sosa.

Born in the Mission district of San Francisco, Sosa fought in the amateurs at a time when it was a bustling and competitive attraction, deep with talented fighters and packed with fans. But his experience inside the ring was hardly any help when he tried it as a business.

"When I first started promoting," Sosa said, as if remembering boot camp, "I had to deal with people who had spent years in the game. They had been in it before I was born. I got taken advantage of in just about every way. I had to work with really tough, hardened managers. Well, I got an education and I paid for it."

When he was eight years old Sosa was curled up on the living room couch next to his father, watching the Friday night fights on the television. His parents came from El Salvador, and his father loved his family, America, soccer and boxing. That was the evening Sosa first discovered boxing. Like any beginning of a passion, he remembers well the disappointments that followed.

"It used to be you could depend on someone's promise or a handshake to put a fight together. Now, it seems, even if you have a signed contract and a lot of tickets sold you can still get screwed over. A promoter does most of his business on the phone. I got to call all over the country. Sometimes I'm talking to someone, some manager, and I know he's lying to me. I don't say anything. I don't like being lied to, but I just want to get off the phone! He's lying to me and I'm paying for a long distance call!

"I've learned a lot of things," Sosa said. "When I hear a manager say 'Don't worry,' — whenever someone says 'Don't worry' to me — well, that's when I really worry. A few years ago a local manager kept saying to me 'No one has ever lost money with my fighter.' He asked for a flat fee and promised to make up for any loss I had. He kept saying 'Don't worry' and 'Trust me.' Well, I ended up losing a lot. When I talked to him later and reminded him about what he had said, he just laughed and walked away."

Sosa is a short, thick-chested fellow, restless and devoted to boxing. While he doesn't always make a good first impression (what boxing promoter does?), Sosa has proven himself with his shows and ranks as one of the few successful young promoters in the state.

Years ago San Francisco was flush with prizefighting and had some of the greatest named arenas, places like 'Bucket of Blood' and 'Dreamland.' Of all the promoters that followed in the wake of that era, going back over 30 years, none could match Sosa at discovering new locations to hold fight cards. In the Galleria, meant for fashion and designer shows; in the Kabuki Theater, used for Japanese culture and punk concerts, and other places that had never seen boxing before, such as a high school auditorium and a convention center meant for trade shows.

In boxing just about everything balances out, just like a fighter standing on a scale. For every winner there is someone who loses. Young guys get old and with every retirement there is the inevitable comeback. Forget about the big name promoters — they wouldn't even be in business if it wasn't for the local promoters who succeed at keeping the sport alive and developing fighters. In California there are perhaps 10 such promoters. Motivated by reasons other than their ego, they work looking for a small profit, not expecting a fortune.

"I'm my hardest critic," Sosa said. "My whole family helps me out on my cards. I didn't get into promoting because I wanted to be like King or Arum. I just happen to love the sport. I consider myself just a novice promoter, and what I've done isn't anything more than what the customers deserve. A lot of people think of boxing as something controversial. Well, it isn't.

"The people who last in the business have done so because it's a part of their life. The greatest feeling is when I'm walking down the aisle and the place is packed. I've lost some money, I've broken even, and I've made money in the end. But what really counts is when you put on a good fight card and the crowd is roaring and cheering. When people come up and pat me on the back, and there's all this excitement — well, that's what boxing is all about to a promoter who loves the sport." □

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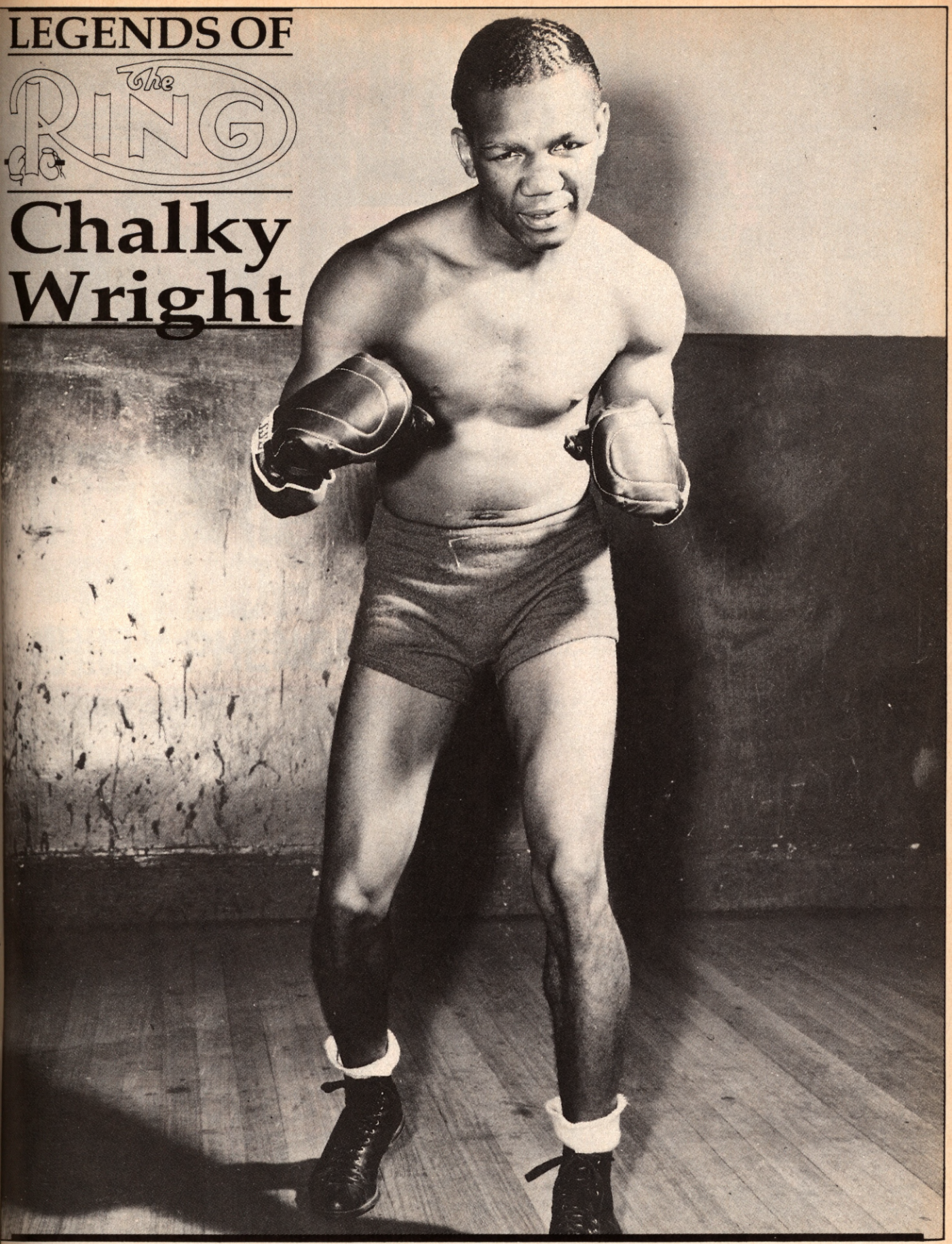
Chalky Wright



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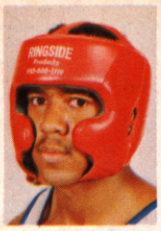

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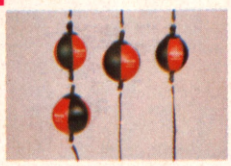

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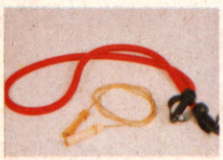

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